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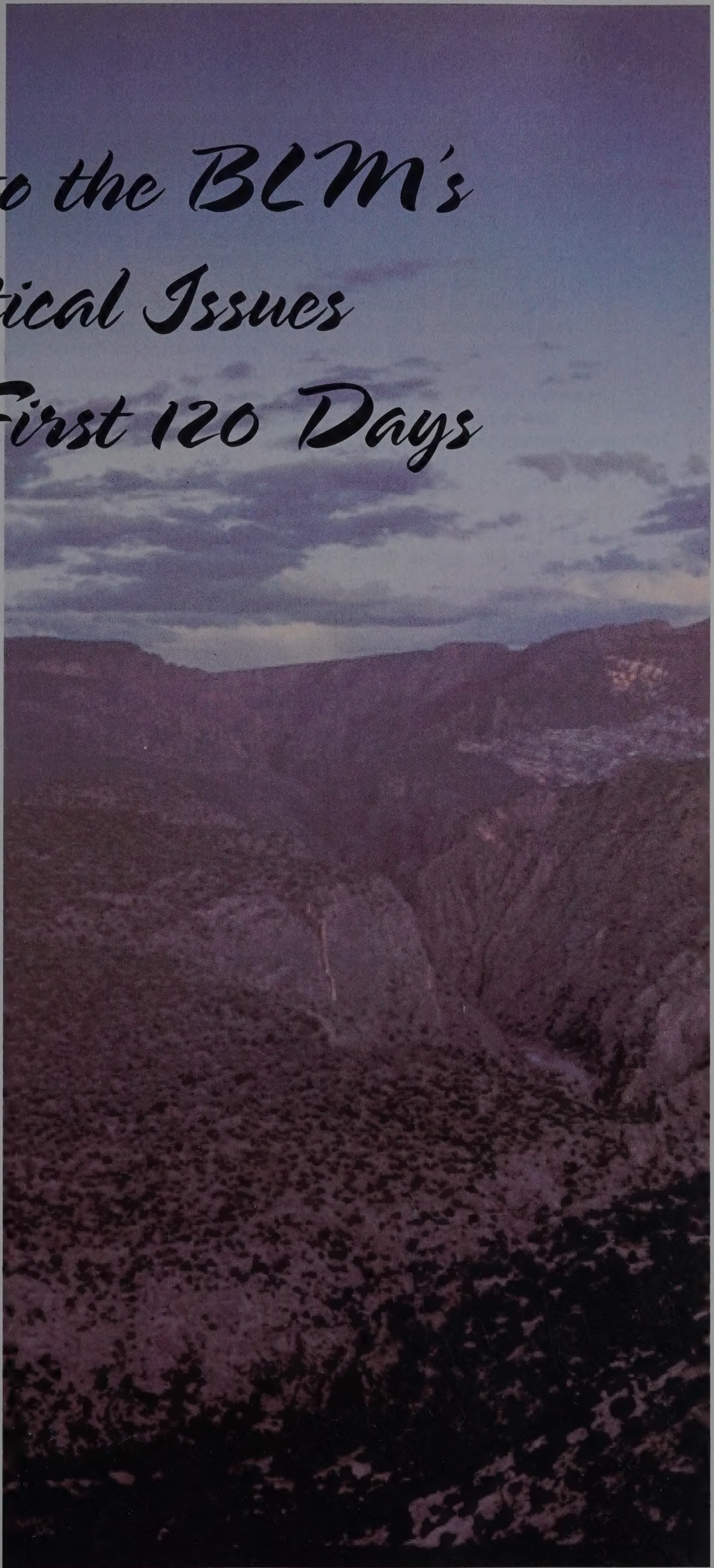

Guide to the BLM's Critical Issues in the First 120 Days

Bureau
of
Land
Management

The BLM preserves open space
by managing the public lands
for multiple uses,
including outdoor recreation,
livestock grazing, and mining,
and by conserving natural,
historical, cultural,
and other resources
found on the public lands.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

web.blm.gov/120days

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- Henri Bisson, Assistant Director for Renewable Resources and Planning, 202 208-4896
- Pete Culp, Assistant Director for Minerals, Realty and Resource Protection, 202 208-4201
- Hord Tipton, Assistant Director, Information Resource Management, 202 208-7701
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Preface

This Guide to the BLM's Critical Issues in the First 120 Days is designed to provide a brief introduction to the varied and complex responsibilities of the USDI Bureau of Land Management, and to critical issues facing the agency. The Guide is not a comprehensive overview of all the activities and issues of the BLM—though numerous sources of additional information are listed in the appendix and additional briefings can be prepared as needed. Rather the Guide is intended to provide a quick overview of the agency and issues that are likely to require prompt attention.

It is organized in four sections:

I. **Introduction** – An overview of the BLM's responsibilities and the agency itself. This section includes maps, a table of organization, employee demographics, and funding information.

II. **Critical Issues** – Brief overviews of the critical issues on the horizon within the next 120 days. Issues are organized by the BLM's three Strategic Plan goals: serve current and future publics, restore and maintain the health of the land, and improve organizational effectiveness.

III. **Other Pending Issues** – Very brief overviews of other national as well as State-specific issues facing the BLM that are less critical but certainly on the horizon within the next 120 days.

IV. **Appendices** – Lists of other pertinent publications, line officers, upcoming events, rulemaking activity, legislation, litigation, reports from the Government Accounting Office and Office of the Inspector General, and BLM internal working groups.

Contents

Page

I. Introduction 1
  BLM's Mission 1
    The Growing, Changing Western U.S. 2
    Land-Management Challenges 2
  Maps 4
  Organization 8
    Table of Organization 8
    Employees 9
  Funding 11

II. Critical Issues (by Strategic Plan Goal) 15
  Serve Current and Future Publics
    Budget for Fire and Resource Management 17
    Energy 18
    Off-Highway Vehicles 19
    Land Transactions 20
    Rights of Way 21
    National Landscape Conservation System 22
  Restore and Maintain the Health of the Land
    Planning 24
    Livestock Grazing 25
    Wild Horses and Burros Management 26
    Threatened and Endangered Species 27
    Public Land Health/Assessment 28
  Improve Organizational Effectiveness
    Workforce Management 29
    Business Improvements 30
    Information Management 31

III. Other Pending Issues
  National Issues 33
  State Issues 40

IV. Appendices
  A. List of Additional BLM Publications A-1
    - Strategic Plan
    - Annual Performance Plan and Report
    - Public Rewards from Public Lands
    - Budget Justifications
    - Annual Report (Chief Financial Officer's report)
    - National Assessment Prototype
    - Public Land Statistics 1999
    - List of Process Presentations
  B. List of Line Officers A-3
  C. 120 Day Calendar A-9
  D. List of Rulemaking Activity A-11
  E. List of Recent Legislation A-13
  F. List of Recent Litigation A-17
  G. GAO/IG Reports A-25
  H. BLM Internal Working Groups A-30

Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management

The BLM has perhaps the most complex and far-reaching mission in he Department of the Interior. The vast acreage and myriad natural and cultural resources that the BLM manages as the Federal government's largest landowner, combined with the complexities of BLM's multiple-use mission, present unique challenges and opportunities. Add to this the increasing demands arising out of new environmental legislation, rapid population growth of many western states, and increasing public concern about wildland fire's threat to communities, and it is easy to see why today the BLM must step up to unprecedented challenges.

The BLM manages nearly one-eighth of all land within the United States—264 million surface acres—and one-fifth of the land in the Intermountain West. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western States including Alaska. The Bureau, which has a budget of about $1.8 billion and a permanent workforce of about 9,000 employees, also administers on-shore minerals underlying most other Federal lands—a total of about 700 million acres of minerals throughout the nation. The value of this huge body of public assets can be measured in terms of people's enjoyment of the BLM's wide open spaces, as well as the productivity and economic worth of public lands to local communities and our National treasury.

The BLM administers some of the most ecologically and culturally diverse and scientifically important lands in Federal ownership. Under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the BLM has a twofold mission—management of land-based uses and

Boise, Idaho. Throughout the West, population growth and community expansion meet directly with public lands.

conservation of resources. The agency's management responsibilities include:

- recreation opportunities
- commercial activities including:
    - energy and minerals development
    - livestock grazing
    - timber production
- wild free-roaming horses and burros
- paleontological, archaeological, and historical sites
- fish and wildlife habitat, and rare and vulnerable plant communities
- transportation systems, including roads, trails, and bridges
- wilderness areas and wild and scenic rivers
- public land survey system

The BLM in a Growing, Changing West

For the most part, the BLM manages lands in Alaska and in the West, a region where rapid population growth near public lands has created more land-use challenges than anyone could have anticipated even five years ago. Demand for open space and land use is more important than ever in the West, given the region's changing demographics. In 1945, the West's population was 17 million; today it is more than 60 million. Eleven of the 15 fastest-growing States are in the West, where most BLM-managed land is located, and by the year 2025, the population of the 13 Western-most states (including Hawaii) is projected to be more than 80 million. As Western cities and towns grow and spread closer to once-remote BLM lands, more and more Westerners are turning to these lands as their outdoor recreational playground and as a sanctuary for rest and solitude.

Today, in the lower 48 states, nearly two-thirds of BLM public lands are within an hour's drive of urban areas, and many of the Nation's fastest growing cities are in the West. In fact, more than 4,100 communities with a total population of 22.2 million are now located within 25 miles of BLM-managed lands, an indication of how much these lands have become the urbanized West's backyard.

As the West grows and changes, the BLM finds itself facing these challenges in the New Millennium:

- BLM lands are expected to experience a five percent increase in recreational visits in 2001—yet the Bureau must manage these outdoor recreation activities with fewer staff.

- With a smaller workforce, the BLM strives to maximize its efficiency, however reduced staffing has inevitably affected the quality and timeliness of its land-management work and services.

- The BLM's backlog for processing rights-of-way applications, including those for communication sites, has risen by more than 800 cases in the past two years—from 1,158 in Fiscal Year 1997 to more than 1,900 in 2000. (An application is considered backlogged if it is relatively uncomplicated to process and is more than 60 days old.) Western growth and the impacts of electricity deregulation will keep these workloads high.

- The number of threatened and endangered species of animals and plants on BLM lands rose from 71 in 1982 to nearly 300 in 2000. This need to protect many more endangered species has added to the complexity of the Bureau's land-management mission.

- The number of BLM law enforcement personnel declined from 255 in 1992 to 195 in 2000. Given the Bureau's management of 264 million acres, that means each officer is responsible for more than 1.3 million acres.

- BLM lands include valuable mineral resources: oil, gas, coal, hardrock minerals, and industrial minerals. The rapidly increasing interest in coal bed methane production has placed the Bureau on the threshold of a new energy era.

Despite these challenges, the BLM historically brings more money into the general U.S. Treasury than it costs to operate. Only the Internal Revenue Service, Minerals Management Service, and U.S. Customs Service send more money to the general Treasury than the BLM.

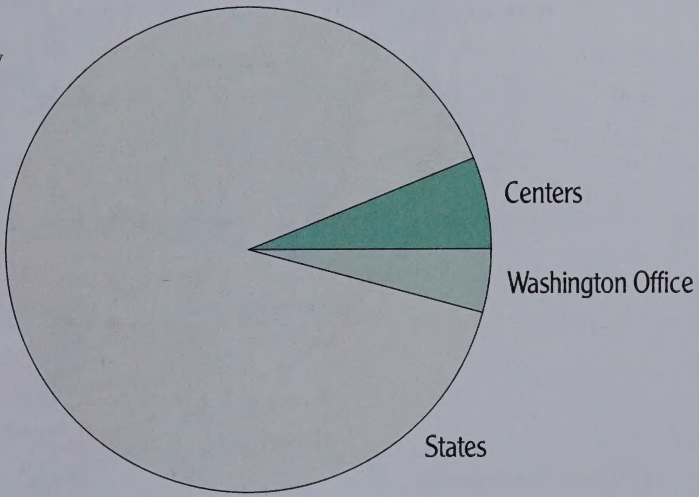
Conclusion

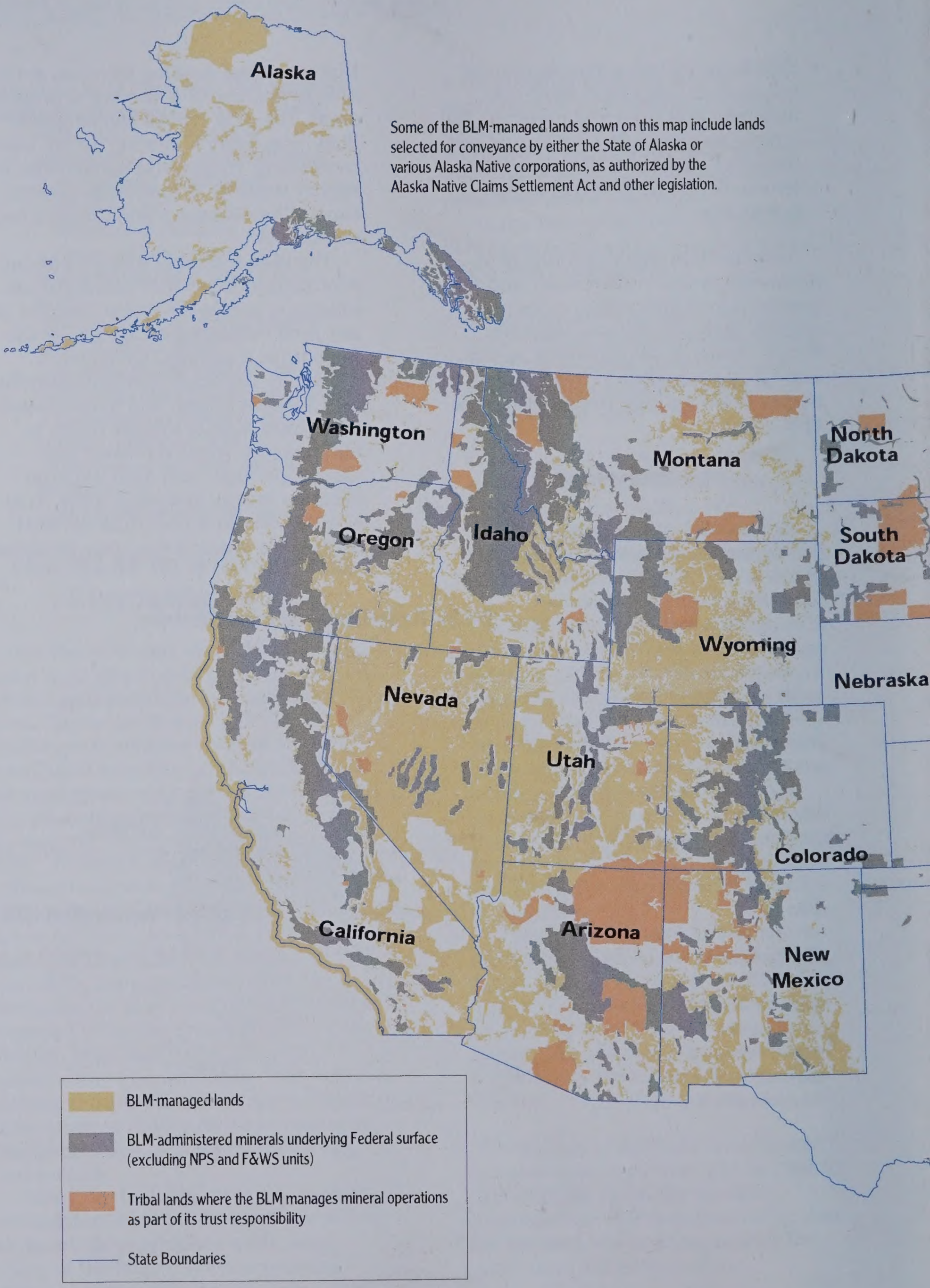
As a result of the changing demographics of the West in the last decade alone, BLM's workload has risen steadily, yet because of budgetary and other reasons, the BLM's workforce actually declined from nearly 10,000 permanent employees to 9,000.

Today, largely due to the increasing occurrence of wildland fire and risks to communities, the BLM's fiscal year 2001 appropriation contains the largest funding increase in the Bureau's history. However, these funding increases are not only in fire, but in a number of program areas. The most critical challenge the BLM faces today is gearing up (by way of contracting, cooperative agreements, and agency staffing) to meet these greatly expanding workloads and Congressional expectations.

The BLM is a small agency with an enormous job. The BLM's multiple-use mission is perhaps the most complex of any land management agency. At the same time, it enables the Bureau to respond to the many demands associated with Western growth and development, assist communities in their efforts to maintain the West's economic and natural heritage, and meet national needs for energy and open space. That is why the men and women of the BLM believe this agency's best days lie ahead.

BLM Employee Distribution

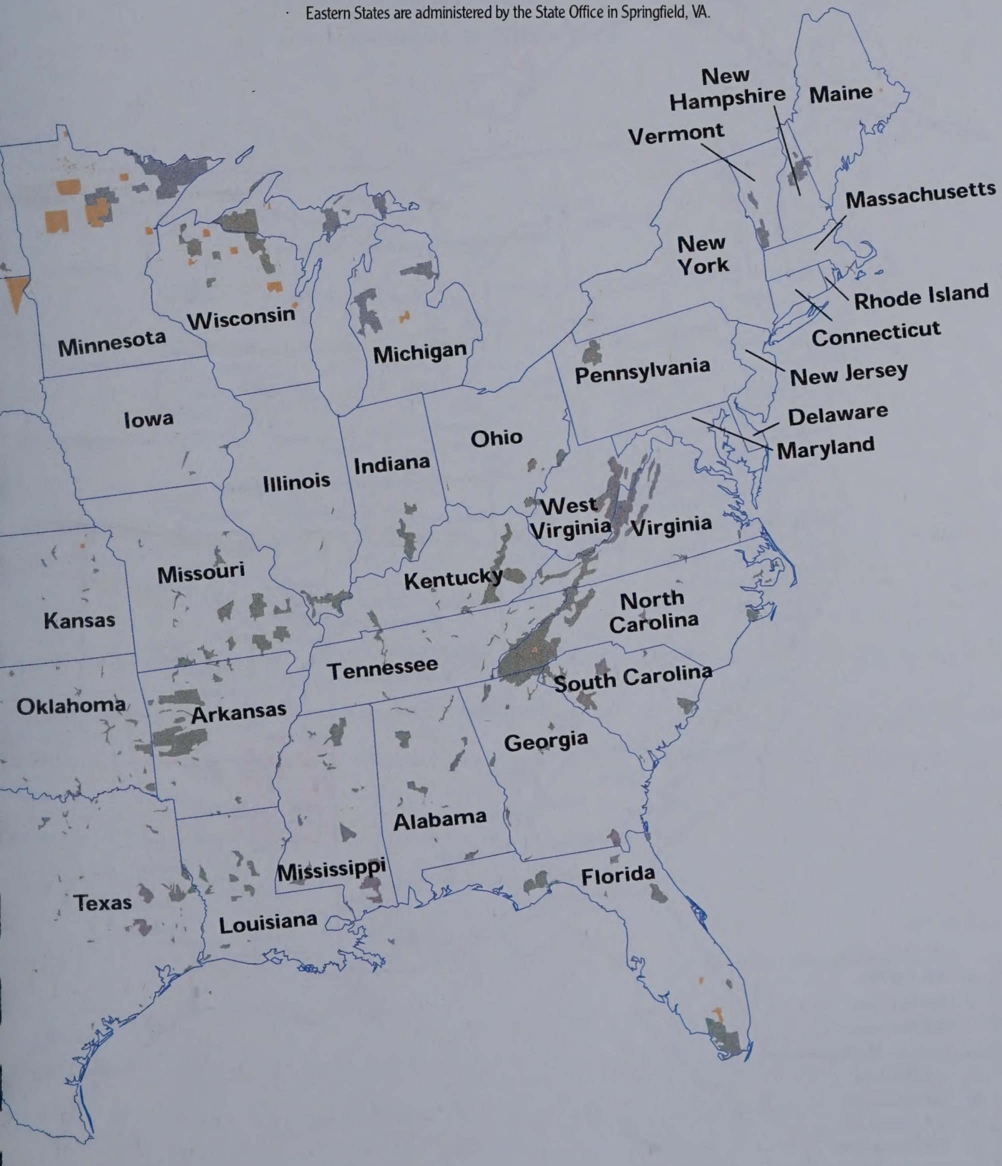


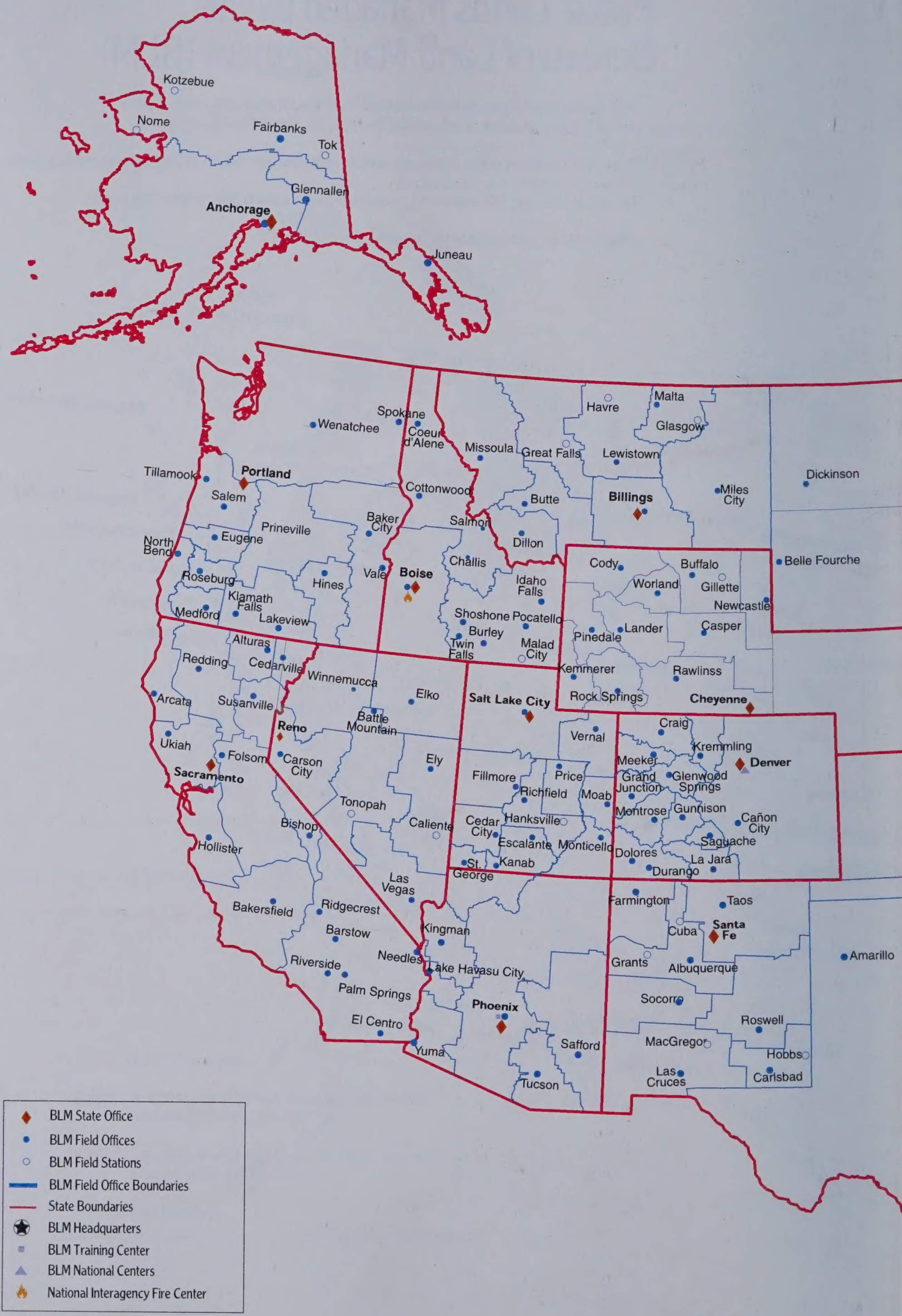

Alaska
Washington
Montana
North Dakota
Oregon
Idaho
South Dakota
Wyoming
Nebraska
Nevada
Utah
Colorado
California
Arizona
New Mexico
BLM-managed lands
BLM-administered minerals underlying Federal surface (excluding NPS and F&WS units)
Tribal lands where the BLM manages mineral operations as part of its trust responsibility
State Boundaries

Some of the BLM-managed lands shown on this map include lands selected for conveyance by either the State of Alaska or various Alaska Native corporations, as authorized by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and other legislation.

Public Lands Managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

- In the Eastern United States, the BLM manages 39.7 million acres of subsurface mineral estate and 20,000 acres of surface, mostly small isolated parcels scattered throughout 31 States
- Today, the BLM administers 264 million acres of public lands located primarily in 12 Western States, including Alaska.
- The agency administers 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate located throughout the country.
- Eastern States are administered by the State Office in Springfield, VA.


New Hampshire
Maine
Vermont
Massachusetts
New York
Rhode Island
Connecticut
Wisconsin
Minnesota
Michigan
Pennsylvania
New Jersey
Delaware
Iowa
Ohio
Maryland
Indiana
Illinois
West Virginia
Virginia
Missouri
Kentucky
Kansas
North Carolina
Tennessee
South Carolina
Oklahoma
Arkansas
Georgia
Alabama
Mississippi
Florida
Texas
Louisiana

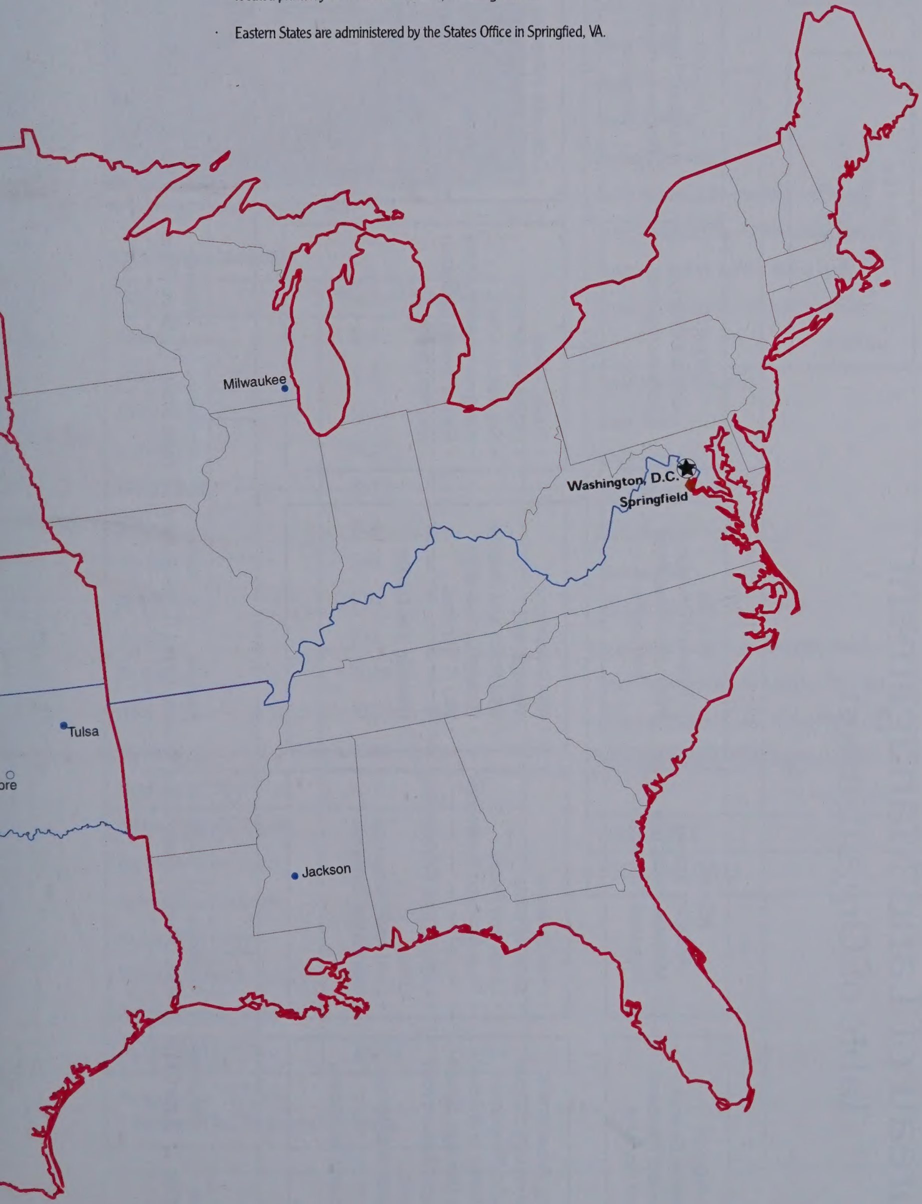

Kotzebue
Nome
Fairbanks
Tok
Glennallen
Anchorage
Juneau
Wenatchee
Spokane
Coeur d'Alene
Missoula
Great Falls
Havre
Malta
Glasgow
Lewistown
Dickinson
Miles City
Billings
Tillamook
Portland
Salem
Cottonwood
Butte
Salmon
Dillon
North Bend
Eugene
Prineville
Baker City
Roseburg
Hines
Vale
Boise
Challis
Idaho Falls
Cody
Buffalo
Worland
Gillette
Newcastle
Belle Fourche
Medford
Klamath Falls
Lakeview
Shoshone
Pocatello
Burley
Twin Falls
Malad City
Pinedale
Lander
Casper
Alturas
Redding
Cedarville
Winnemucca
Kemmerer
Rawlinss
Rock Springs
Cheyenne
Arcata
Susanville
Elko
Battle Mountain
Salt Lake City
Vernal
Craig
Kremmling
Reno
Ukiah
Folsom
Carson City
Ely
Meeker
Denver
Sacramento
Fillmore
Price
Grand Junction
Glenwood Springs
Richfield
Moab
Tonopah
Montrose
Gunnison
Cañon City
Bishop
Caliente
Cedar City
Hanksville
Escalante
Monticello
Dolores
Saguache
Hollister
St. George
Kanab
La Jara
Durango
Las Vegas
Farmington
Taos
Bakersfield
Ridgecrest
Barstow
Kingman
Cuba
Santa Fe
Needles
Riverside
Lake Havasu City
Grants
Albuquerque
Amarillo
Palm Springs
Phoenix
Socorro
El Centro
Roswell
Yuma
Safford
MacGregor
Hobbs
Tucson
Las Cruces
Carlsbad
♦ BLM State Office
● BLM Field Offices
○ BLM Field Stations
BLM Field Office Boundaries
State Boundaries
★ BLM Headquarters
▪ BLM Training Center
▲ BLM National Centers
National Interagency Fire Center

BLM Offices and Jurisdiction

- The Montana State Office has jurisdiction over BLM-managed land in North and South Dakota.
  The New Mexico State Office has jurisdiction over BLM-managed land in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas.
  The Oregon State Office has jurisdiction over BLM-managed land in the State of Washington.
  The Wyoming State Office has jurisdiction over BLM-managed land in Nebraska.

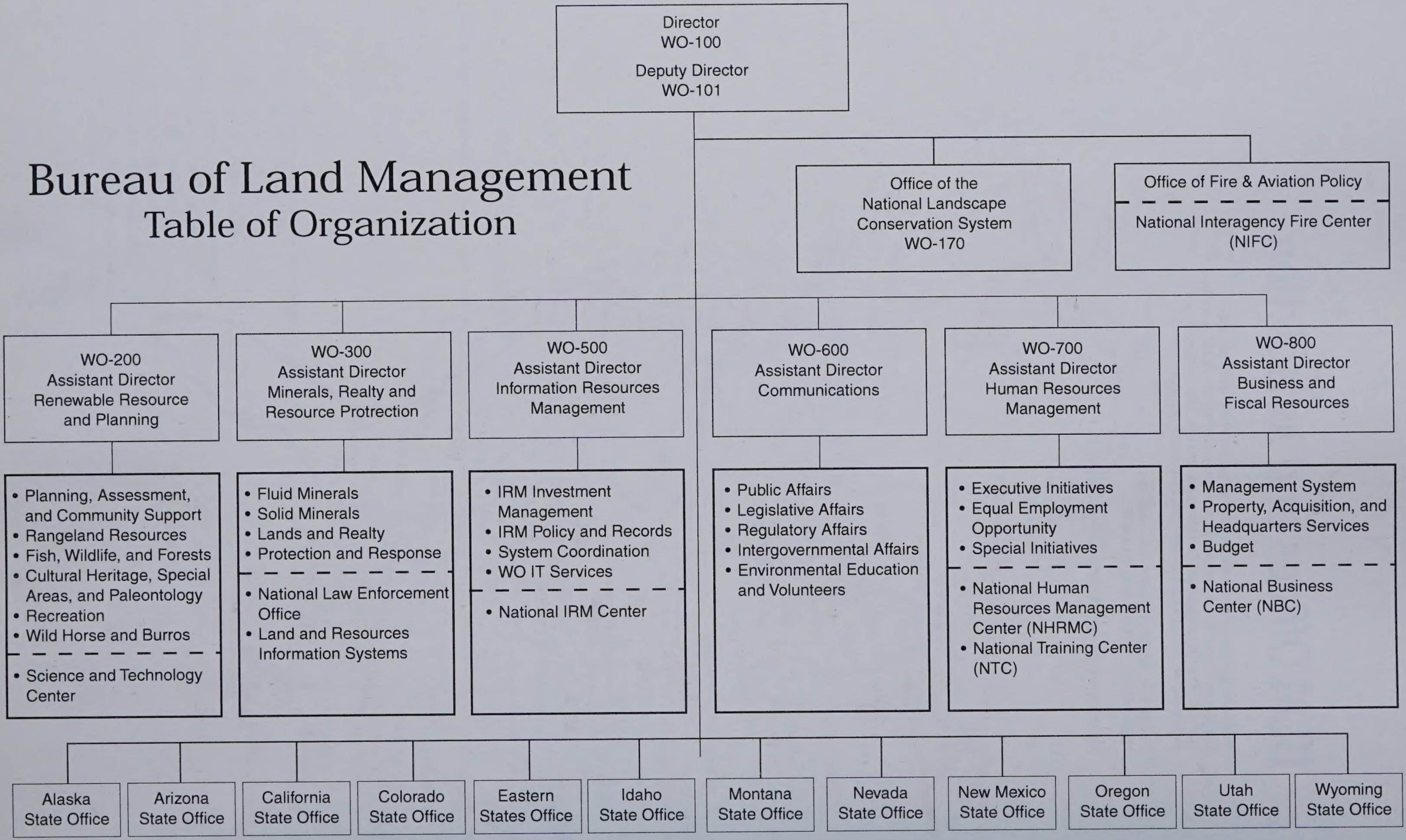
- Today, the BLM administers 264 million acres of public lands located primarily in 12 Western States, including Alaska.

- Eastern States are administered by the States Office in Springfied, VA.



Bureau of Land Management

Table of Organization



- Director WO-100
- Deputy Director WO-101
  - Office of the National Landscape Conservation System WO-170
  - Office of Fire & Aviation Policy
    - National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC)
  - WO-200 Assistant Director Renewable Resource and Planning
    - Planning, Assessment, and Community Support
    - Rangeland Resources
    - Fish, Wildlife, and Forests
    - Cultural Heritage, Special Areas, and Paleontology
    - Recreation
    - Wild Horse and Burros
    - Science and Technology Center
  - WO-300 Assistant Director Minerals, Realty and Resource Protrection
    - Fluid Minerals
    - Solid Minerals
    - Lands and Realty
    - Protection and Response
    - National Law Enforcement Office
    - Land and Resources Information Systems
  - WO-500 Assistant Director Information Resources Management
    - IRM Investment Management
    - IRM Policy and Records
    - System Coordination
    - WO IT Services
    - National IRM Center
  - WO-600 Assistant Director Communications
    - Public Affairs
    - Legislative Affairs
    - Regulatory Affairs
    - Intergovernmental Affairs
    - Environmental Education and Volunteers
  - WO-700 Assistant Director Human Resources Management
    - Executive Initiatives
    - Equal Employment Opportunity
    - Special Initiatives
    - National Human Resources Management Center (NHRMC)
    - National Training Center (NTC)
  - WO-800 Assistant Director Business and Fiscal Resources
    - Management System
    - Property, Acquisition, and Headquarters Services
    - Budget
    - National Business Center (NBC)
  - Alaska State Office
  - Arizona State Office
  - California State Office
  - Colorado State Office
  - Eastern States Office
  - Idaho State Office
  - Montana State Office
  - Nevada State Office
  - New Mexico State Office
  - Oregon State Office
  - Utah State Office
  - Wyoming State Office

Employees

Inventorying natural resources, Utah

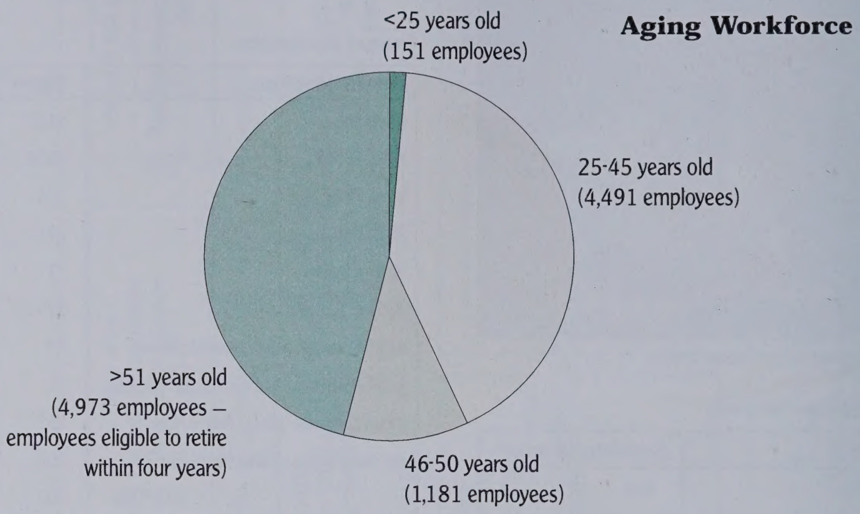
BLM Employee Distribution

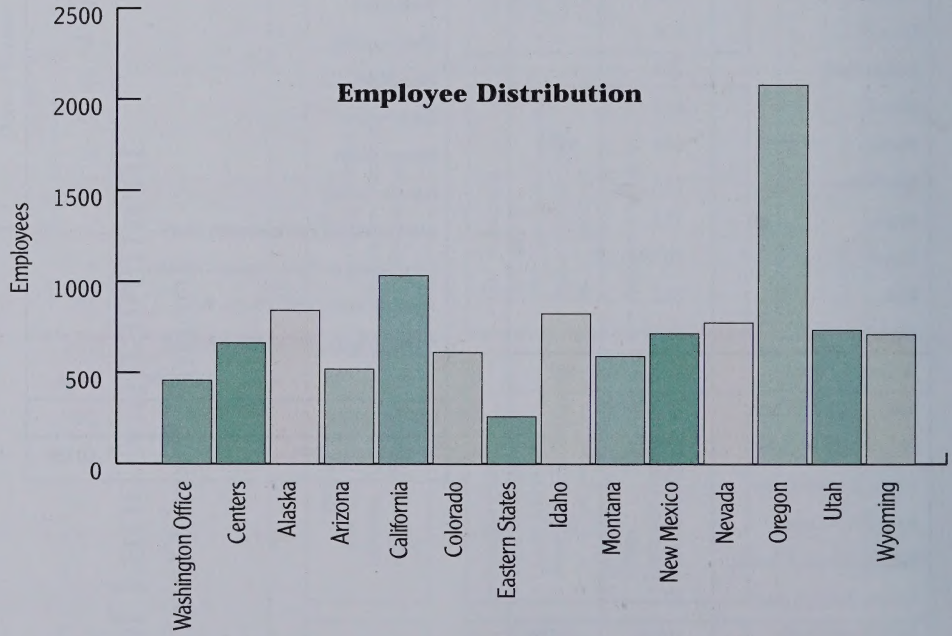
Office	Employees Distribution*	
Alaska	841	9677
Arizona	518	
California	1031	
Colorado	610	
Eastern States	258	
Idaho	822	
Montana	589	
New Mexico	714	
Nevada	773	
Oregon	2078	
Utah	733	
Wyoming	710	
Headquarter Office	457	457
National Business Center	118	662
Fire and Aviation Center	285	
Human Resource Center	36	
National IRM Center	41	
National Science & Tech Ctr.	95	
National Training Center	87	
TOTAL EMPLOYEES	**10796**	**10796**

As of October 15, 2000
* Permanent and Temporary Employees

Employee Demographics

Permanent Employees	Number
White Males	5122
White Females	2556
Black Males	102
Black Females	224
Hispanic Males	331
Hispanic Females	277
Asian American/Pacific Islanders Males	70
Asian American/Pacific Islanders Females	56
American Indian/Alaska Native Males	155
American Indian/Alaska Native Females	108
SUBTOTAL	9001
Temporary Employees	
White Males	937
White Females	429
Black Males	26
Black Females	19
Hispanic Males	67
Hispanic Females	19
Asian American/Pacific Islanders MaleS	7
Asian American/Pacific Islanders Females	5
American Indian/Alaska Native Males	39
American Indian/Alaska Native Females	21
SUBTOTAL	1548
UNCLASSIFIED	247
TOTAL EMPLOYEES	**10796**


Aging Workforce
<25 years old (151 employees)
25-45 years old (4,491 employees)
46-50 years old (1,181 employees)
>51 years old (4,973 employees – employees eligible to retire within four years)


Employee Distribution
Employees
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
0
Washington Office
Centers
Alaska
Arizona
California
Colorado
Eastern States
Idaho
Montana
New Mexico
Nevada
Oregon
Utah
Wyoming

Funding

The BLM receives its funding in 17 separate appropriations. The *Management of Lands and Resources* is the Bureau's largest appropriation that funds the majority of day-to-day resource management activities on the public lands. The DOI *Wildland Fire Management* funds are appropriated to the BLM, and then allocated to the BLM, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The fire program contains the second largest amount of funding provided to BLM for fiscal year 2001.

Other major appropriations include:

- *Oregon and California Grant Lands (O&C)* that funds management of high value forest lands primarily located in western Oregon;
- *Land Acquisition* that funds acquisition of properties with unique resource values;
- *Construction* that funds building of facilities;
- *Range Improvements* that funds development and maintenance of range management infrastructure
- *Central Hazardous Materials* funds cleanup of hazardous waste sites
- *Payments in Lieu of Taxes* that funds payments to counties to offset taxes foregone due to federal land ownership

Additional appropriations are listed and described in the budget justifications listed under Appendix A.

For the last decade, the BLM's overall budget status has been one of flat funding, with declining funding in real dollar terms from year to year. At the same time, the BLM workforce was reduced and the average age of employees increased. Largely due to the increasing occurrence wildland fire and risks to communities, the fiscal year 2001 appropriation contains the largest funding increase the Bureau has received in a long time, not only in fire, but in a number of program areas. The challenge facing the BLM now is to manage the competing workloads to do all of the work expected to be accomplished with that money. Significant Congressional oversight will occur and a substantial number of Congressional reports with very short deadlines are required to describe the planned use of the funds.

Funding in BLM's Main Operating Accounts

Appropriation (ie. "Account")	FY2000 Funding	FY2001 Funding	Funding Increase
Management of Lands and Resources /1	$679 million	$786 million	$107 million
Wildland Fire Management	$160 million	$457 million	$297 million
Oregon and California Grant Lands	$99 million	$104 million	$5 million
Land Acquisition /1	$16 million	$52 million	$36 million
Construction	$11 million	$17 million	$6 million
Payments in Lieu of Taxes /1	$135 million	$200 million	$65 million
Central Hazardous Materials Fund	$10 million	$10 million	$0 million
Range Improvements	$10 million	$10 million	$0 million
Other appropriations /2	$123 million	$146 million	$23 million
Grand Total (all appropriations)	$1.244 billion	$1.782 billion	$538 million

/1 - Includes $17.172 million funding from Title V "Emergency Supplemental Appropriations" for fire restoration and grasshopper and Mormon Cricket infestations, $4.3 million in Title III "General Provisions" for the Umpqua Land Exchange Project, and Title VIII - "Land Conservation, Preservation, and Infrastructure Improvement" including $25 million for deferred maintenance, $50 million for Payments in Lieu of Taxes, and an estimated $16.2 million for BLM land acquisition.

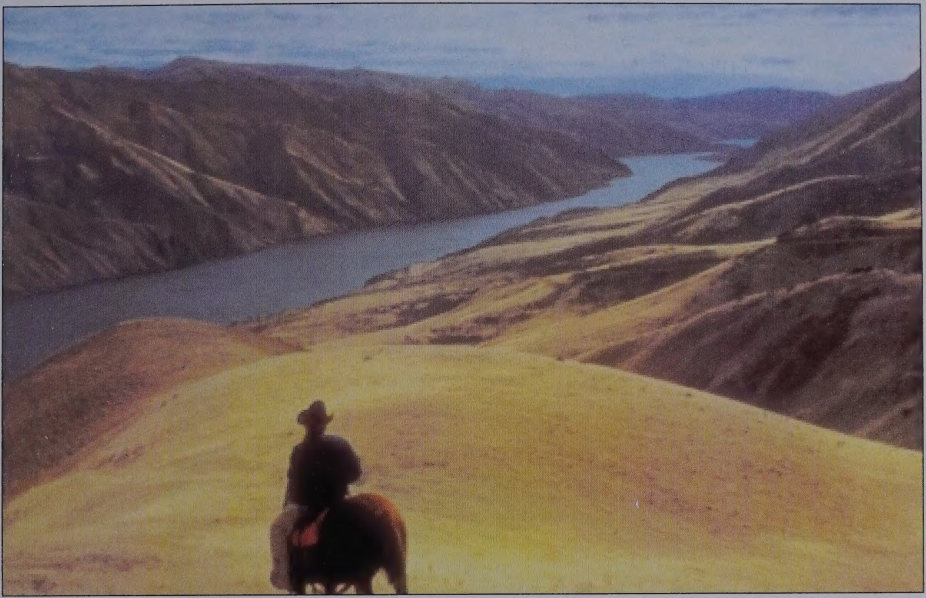
/2 Other appropriations include Service Charges, Deposits and Forfeitures, Miscellaneous Trust Funds, Miscellaneous Permanent Payments, Payment to Timber Counties and States, Federal Timber Program, Permanent Operating Funds, and Land Acquisition from Surplus Land Sales.

Major Appropriation Actions for the BLM in the FY2001 Budget

Item	Amount of Increase
Wildland Fire Management	
Readiness Resources	$73 million
Fire Facilities	$18 million
Fire Science	$4 million
Suppression	$63 million
Fuels Management	$77 million
Rehabilitation	$54 million
Rural Fire Assistance	$10 million

Major Appropriation Actions for the BLM in the FY2001 Budget cont'd

Item	Amount of Increase
Management of Lands and Resources (MLR)	
Deferred Maintenance	$26.5 million
Full Fixed Costs	$20.5 million
Land Use Planning	$19 million
Restoration of fire damage	$15.7 million
Wild Horse and Burro Management	$9 million
National Landscape Conservation System	$8 million
Sagebrush Ecosystem	$2 million
Noxious Weeds	$1.5 million
Treatment of Grasshoppers and Mormon crickets	$1.5 million
San Pedro Partnership (Arizona)	$1 million
Lewis and Clark river management (Montana)	$1 million
Minerals at risk (Alaska)	$1 million
Resource protection	$980,000
Mining Claims system (Alaska)	$700,000
Cadastral survey project (Montana)	$650,000
Desert Rangers (California)	$600,000
Coalbed methane EIS (Montana)	$500,000
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	$500,000 ($3 million total)
Missouri River Undaunted Stewardship	$500,000
Utah Geographic reference	$300,000 ($600,000 total)
Rights of Way backlog	$145,000
Yukon River Salmon (Alaska)	$0 increase, continuation at $900,000 from last year
Weed Program (Idaho)	$0 increase, continuation at $750,000 from last year
Weed Program (Montana)	$0 increase, continuation at $500,000 from last year
National Lab grazing study (Oregon)	$0 increase, continuation at $500,000 from last year
Oregon and California Grant Lands	
Survey and Manage	$3 million

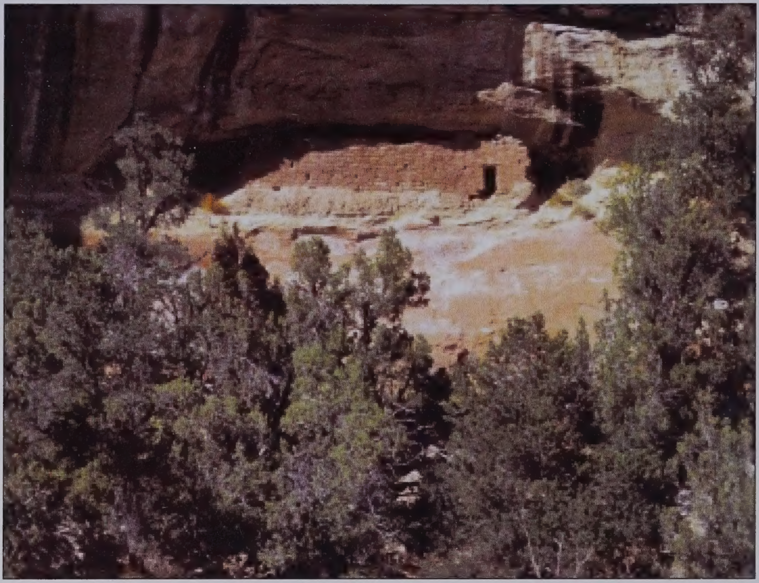


Critical Issues

Serve Current & Future Publics
- Budget for Fire & Resource Management
- Energy
- Off-Highway Vehicles
- Land Transactions
- Rights of Way
- National Landscape Conservation System

Restore & Maintain the Health of the Land
- Planning
- Livestock Grazing
- Wild Horses & Burros Management
- Threatened & Endangered Species
- Public Land Health/Assessment

Improve Organizational Effectiveness
- Workforce Management
- Business Improvements
- Information Management



Brief overviews of the 14 critical issues on the horizon within the next 120 days. Issues are organized by the BLM's three Strategic Plan goals: serve current and future publics; restore and maintain the health of the land; and improve organizational effectiveness.

Budget for Fire & Resource Management

Actions on the horizon within the next 120 days: Plan, allocate, and direct the use of all fiscal resources in the BLM's FY 2001 annual work plan by early December. Prepare specific reports to Congress addressing implementation of the Wildland Fire Program according to the schedule prescribed in the FY 2001 Appropriation and Conference Report. Acquire additional staff and initiate a planning and contracting effort to use the fire appropriation this fiscal year.

Facts: The FY 2001 Appropriations represents an unprecedented funding increase of more than 43 percent that provides resources critical to meeting the BLM's stewardship responsibilities for managing the public lands and is a major step forward as part of a multi-year effort to address long-term resource management needs. Substantial increases were provided for land-use planning, wild horse and burro (WH&B) management, the new National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS), deferred maintenance, and fire-related activities.

The planning funds will enable us to update resource management plans that form the basis for many of our resource management decisions, including those involving the NLCS. Increases in the WH&B Program allow us to begin a long-term strategy for ultimately achieving Appropriate Management Levels in our Herd Management Areas. Increases in deferred maintenance will allow us to make significant progress toward eliminating our estimated $280 million backlog in facilities maintenance.

As a result of the 2000 wildland fire season- which burned nearly seven million acres- the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture prepared a report for the President that details the actions necessary to enable the Federal wildland firefighting agencies to increase their level of effectiveness. The FY 2001 appropriation provides full funding for the BLM Fire program, an increase of nearly $300 million above the FY 2000 funding of $160 million, in preparedness for readiness resources, fire facility maintenance and improvements, and fire science research and in operations for suppression, hazardous fuels reduction, emergency rehabilitation, and rural fire district assistance. Budget increases for FY 2001 and beyond will also allow agencies to plan and implement wildland hazardous fuels reduction and to accelerate treatments, planning, and collaborative projects with non-Federal partners in the wildland-urban interface.

External Interest and Advisory Groups: External and internal interest in the 2000 wildland fire season has remained high this year. Interest from governors, States, communities, stakeholders and the media will likely continue, as the effects of this season will be felt in some communities for many years. In addition to the fire-related activities, the appropriations committees and external interest groups continue to express interest in the BLM's planning efforts, use authorizations, and management of the NLCS.

Keywords: wildland fire, budget, annual work plan

Geographic Extent: Bureau-wide, including constituent groups and local communities (especially communities " at risk" as identified through the Fire program).

For more information: Bob Doyle, AD-800 (202) 208-4864.

Energy

Actions on the horizon within the next 120 days: For Oil and Gas: Issue final drainage rule (43 CFR) and the comprehensive oil and gas rule (43 CFR 3100). The final drainage rule would clarify the responsibility lessees have to protect their Federal lease from drainage and clarify the extent of liability of all leases. The oil and gas rule will eliminate duplication, establish performance bonds, incorporate industry standards, eliminate self-regulation, and is performance based and written in plain language. Both the oil and gas and final drainage rules will be promulgated by the end of the year. BLM efforts in 2001 will be directed toward implementing the regulations.

Facts: The BLM administers on-shore minerals underlying most other Federal lands- a total of about 700 million acres of minerals throughout the nation. Production from onshore federal lands accounts for 5% of national oil production, 11% of national total gas production, and about 33% of national coal production. Though the Bureau of Indian Affairs leases the resources, BLM administers exploration and development of Indian-owned coal and oil and gas. Major components for both oil and gas and coal include: 1) land-use planning 2) leasing 3) post-lease authorizations, and 4) inspection and enforcement (I&E).

Land-use planning is currently a major issue because many plans are out of date. The absence of an adequate land-use plan threatens our ability to lease and apply the appropriate stipulations to leases which determine the extent of permissible surface disturbance. The large volume of proposed additional coalbed methane (CBM) development exacerbates this problem. Also, the number of applications for permit to drill is at a level which strains the BLM's ability with currently available resources to process them in a timely manner. The BLM also does not have the funds or workforce to adequately follow up on monitoring and I&E to ensure compliance or amend requirements where appropriate.

External Interest and Advisory Groups: Oil and Gas: Senator Enzi (R-WY) and, Cong. Cubin (R-WY) sponsored companion bills dealing with coal and CBM conflicts in the Powder River Basin. Senator Burns (R-MT), along with the Wyoming delegation, has been instrumental in securing supplemental funding and appropriations for CBM and oil and gas development in the Powder River Basin. The National Petroleum Council's 1999 Availability of Natural Gas study identified access to Federal lands as a major issue. Senator Murkowski (R-AK) has sponsored legislation addressing the Nation's energy policy.
Coal: National Mining Association, Powder River Basin Resource Council, Navajo Nation, Hopi Nation, Crow Nation, Northern Cheyenne, entire Wyoming Delegation, Senator Domenici, Arch Coal Company (domestic US, Kennecott Division of RTZ (British/Australian company), Peabody, RAG America (German company)

Keywords: Land use planning, leasing, use authorization, coal leasing, coal mining, oil and gas operations, CBM, Indian trust responsibilities

Geographic Extent: Oil and Gas: Rocky Mountain States (Powder River Basin, Greater Green River Basin, San Juan Basin, Piceance Basin, Rocky Mountain Front, California, Alaska (NPRA, ANWR), Louisiana, Mississippi, Michigan, Ohio. Coal: New Mexico, Wyoming, Montana, Arizona, Utah, Alabama, the Dakotas, Colorado.

For more information: Pete Culp, AD-300 (202) 208-4201.

Off Highway Vehicles

Actions on the horizon within the next 120 days:

- Finalize the BLM planning handbook, which will incorporate the requirement for route and trail designations as an element of the land use plan, rather than deferring designations until implementation plans are developed later.

- Complete the National Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Strategy to update national policy and provide the field offices guidance for local solutions to OHV problems. A draft strategy will be released for a 30-day public comment period in November, 2000. A final strategy is planned for December, 2000.

Facts: The Endangered Species Act and new wilderness designations have focused the attention of the environmental community on the Bureau's difficulties in managing OHVs. The BLM has not enforced OHV use on designated routes, partly due to a shortage of staff. Issues surrounding OHV or Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) management have achieved high-profile status for BLM's Recreation Program in the last two years. Several lawsuits were filed in 1999 and 2000 by the environmental community for environmental degradation and wilderness impairment and by the multiple-use community for management decisions that have limited public access to public lands. Responding to such lawsuits redirects staff time that is then unavailable for on-the-ground management responsibilities. Additionally, an increasing volume of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and congressional information requests indicates the high levels of interest in this issue at the local and national level.

Current BLM policy regarding the use of motorized vehicles is described in manuals last updated in 1982. The Bureau has dedicated significant resources to OHV management since then, but as the agency with the largest land base (almost 264 million surface acres to manage), it has never been able to complete the road and trail designation process, let alone adequately manage OHV use. Rapidly growing populations near BLM lands and improvements in OHV technology have resulted in increased demands for motorized recreation.

External Interest and Advisory Groups: Members of Congress, State and local government agencies, environmental advocacy organizations, motorized and non-motorized recreation advocacy and enthusiast groups, recreational equipment industry organizations, BLM Resource Advisory Councils.

Keywords: OHV, land-use designations, funding needs, workforce, lawsuits, recreation, population growth, RACs

Geographic Extent: Bureau-wide.

For more information: Henri Bisson, AD-200 (202) 208-4896.

OHV use is a rapidly booming activity on public lands

Housing construction in the Summerlin Master Planned Community in western Las Vegas on the border of the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area

Land Transactions

Actions on the horizon within the next 120 days: The Solicitor's Opinion on definitions and implementation of the "Baca Bill" is expected in December 2000. Congressional inquiries on land exchanges are also expected, as well as possible General Accounting Office (GAO) or Inspector General reports or inquiries.

Facts: The BLM continues to use land transactions to improve efficiency and increase the quality of public land management. The Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (PL 106-248, also called Title II of the Baca Bill) will allow the BLM to retain receipts from public land sales, which will be used to cover administrative costs and acquire properties to improve the nation's land management pattern. Land exchange processing has been heavily scrutinized over the past few years. The Congress, GAO, and the Interior Inspector General Office have all had the BLM justify the processes used for land tenure. The BLM continues to modify its processes in response to these audits.

External Interest and Advisory Groups: Senators Pete Domenici (R-NM) and Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), and Congressmen Wilson (R-NM) and Udall (D-NM) sponsored the Baca Bill. The Clinton Administration strongly supported the Baca Bill. Some State Land Commissioners expressed concern that Title II land sales would restrict important land exhanges with BLM. Although Congress has generally supported BLM's land exchange efforts, U.S. Congressman George Miller (D-CA) is very concerned about the program and recently called for a moratorium, a suggestion which the BLM and Secretary Babbitt have rejected.

Keywords:
Land tenure, legislation, Congressional oversight, audits

Geographic Extent: Bureau-wide.

For more information: Pete Culp, AD-300
(202) 208-4201

Rights of Way

Actions on the horizon within the next 120 days: Publish final rights-of-way regulations; implement Bureauwide and industry-specific training.

Facts: The BLM is amending its regulations governing rights-of-way issued under both the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Mineral Leasing Act (MLA). The BLM will reorganize the rule to reflect the sequence in which BLM takes action on applications and monitors issued grants. We will revise cost-recovery policies and procedures and adjust cost-recovery fees to reflect cost increases since the current regulations became effective in July 1987. The rule will also clarify how the BLM will apply the rent schedule and will address how users must handle hazardous materials. Finally, the rule also establishes customer service standards. The Forest Service has published similar regulations to address management issues related to the agency's special uses program. Jointly with the Forest Service, the BLM has begun a separate rulemaking process to update rental charges for fiber optic rights-of-way. Section 340 of the FY 2001 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, however, prohibits the BLM from issuing a fiber optics rule during this Fiscal Year.

External Interest and Advisory Groups: The BLM published proposed regulations in the Federal Register on June 15, 1999, (64 FR 32106) with a 120-day public comment period. The BLM received 63 comment letters on many of the specific provisions of the regulations as well as comments asking whether the regulations themselves were appropriate or needed. Several industry groups have stated support for the regulations. The industry supports the customer service standard, allowing the use of Master Agreements and directing the processing fees to the office collecting the monies. The BLM anticipates Congressional support for the final regulations provided that the industry continues its support. The Forest Service also supports these regulations and plans on publishing similar regulations to administer its special uses program.

The Alaska transatlantic pipeline

Keywords: Rights-of-way, land-use authorization, regulations, cost recovery/fees

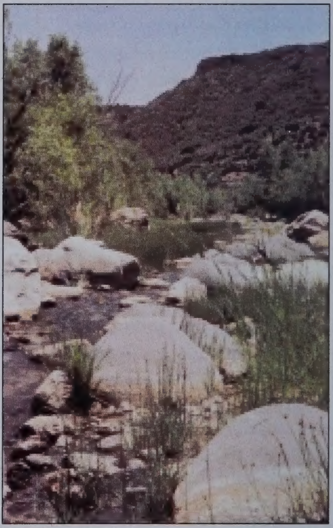
Geographic Extent: Bureau-wide.

For more information: Pete Culp, AD-300, (202) 208-4201

National Landscape Conservation System

Actions on the horizon within the next 120 days: Meet urgent resource protection and visitor service needs associated with rapid increases in visitation at recently established National Landscape Conservation System units. Fill vacancies in the Washington Office and selected Field Offices. Develop interim management guidance for the recently established National Conservation Areas, National Monuments, and Trails. Issue regulatory guidance for wilderness and wild and scenic rivers management, and policy guidance for wilderness inventories. Working in cooperation with adjacent communities, initiate resource assessments and new land use plans to outline how traditional public land uses will be managed to meet resource protection needs, and to address local concerns.

Facts: The BLM Director established the National Landscape Conservation System to provide a national framework for managing Congressionally and Presidentially designated special areas on the public lands. This System includes the BLM's National Conservation Areas, National Monuments, Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and National Historic and Scenic Trails. Taken together, these areas include over 820 BLM units encompassing more than 38 million acres of public land—an area more than half the size of the National Park System. This conservation system is designed to be different from either the National Park System or the National Refuge System; many traditional public land uses such as livestock grazing will continue, and most visitor facilities will be located outside the units in adjacent communities. While local communities appreciate the resource values in these special areas, some question the manner in which certain of these units were established. There is a high level of public interest and sensitivity about the management of these areas.

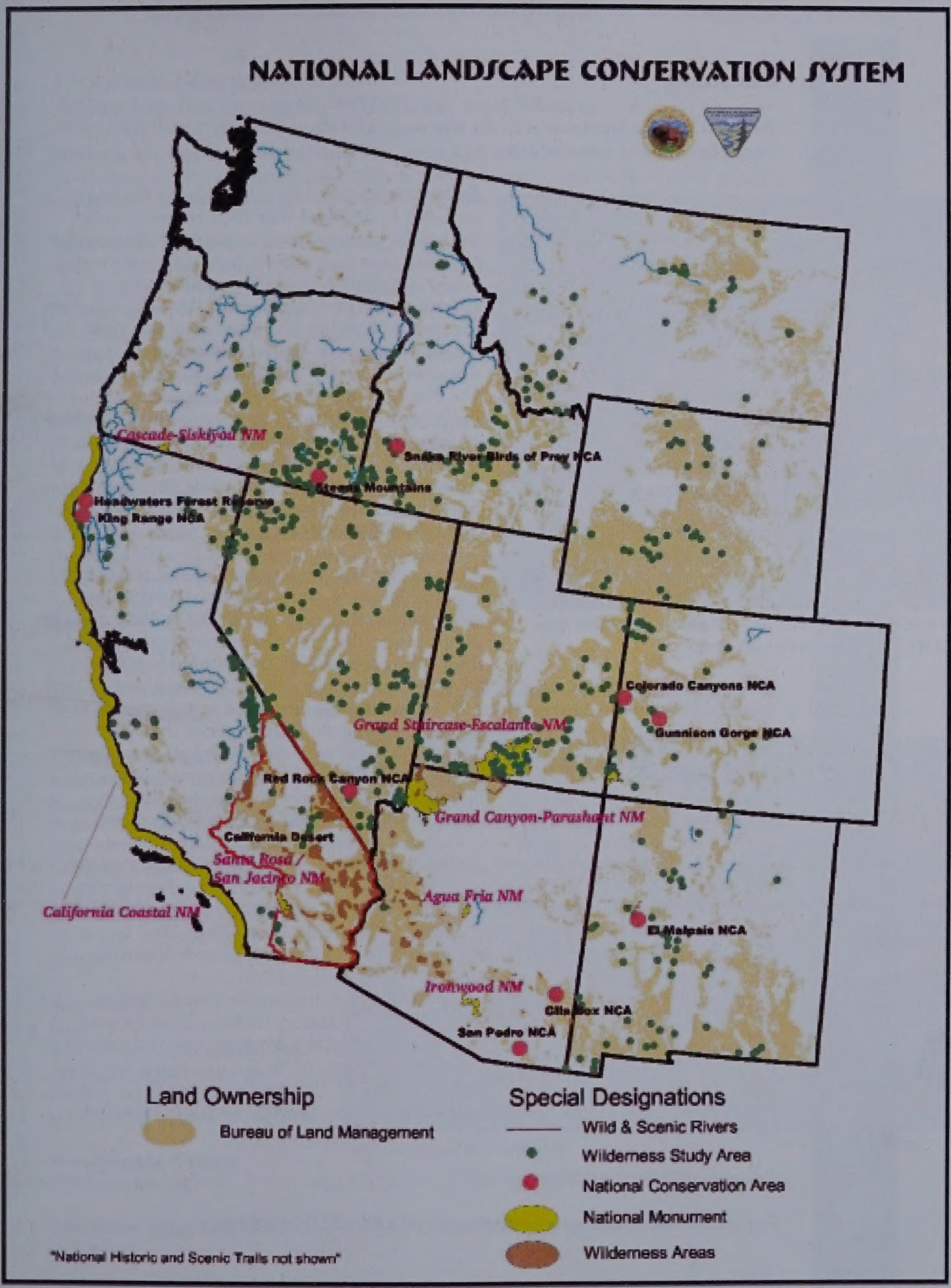

Agua Fria National Monument, Arizona

External Interest and Advisory Groups: Members of Congress; affected Tribal, State and local units of government; adjacent communities; adjacent land owners; Resource Advisory Councils; public land users; owners of valid existing rights; conservation organizations; recreation organizations; and traditional commodity organizations.

Keywords: NLCS, National Monument, NCA, Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Historic and Scenic Trails, Forest Reserve, Cooperative Management and Protection Area, land-use planning, recreation, Congressional oversight, funding needs, RACs.

Geographic Extent: Components of the Conservation System exist in every Western State.

For more information: Elaine Marquis-Brong, WO-170 (202) 208-3516.



NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM

Cascade-Siskiyou NM
Snake River Birds of Prey NCA
Steens Mountains
Headwaters Forest Reserve
King Range NCA
Colorado Canyons NCA
Gunnison Gorge NCA
Grand Staircase-Escalante NM
Red Rock Canyon NCA
Grand Canyon-Parashant NM
California Desert
Santa Rosa / San Jacinto NM
Agua Fria NM
California Coastal NM
El Malpais NCA
Ironwood NM
Gila Box NCA
San Pedro NCA
Land Ownership
Bureau of Land Management
Special Designations
Wild & Scenic Rivers
Wilderness Study Area
National Conservation Area
National Monument
Wilderness Areas
"National Historic and Scenic Trails not shown"

Planning

Actions on the horizon within the next 120 days: Identify which plans will be started, revised or amended.

The NEPA planning process, and up-to-date plans are critical to the BLM's ability to manage the public lands

Facts: As requested by Congress, the Bureau included in its Fiscal Year 2001 budget request the results of an ongoing analysis of the status of land use planning and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) adequacy and the actions needed to correct identified deficiencies, including the level of funding and other resources that would be required. These findings were documented in the "Report to Congress - Land Use Planning for Sustainable Resource Decisions", completed and submitted to Congress in February, 2000. The Bureau realized a budget increase of $19 Million for FY 2001 consistent with this report to Congress. Long-term Bureau funding needs in planning are projected to be $50 million per year.

In the report, the Bureau identified a total of 162 existing land-use plans and associated NEPA analyses covering most of the 264 million acres of public lands that the BLM administers. Some of these plans are current, but many are older-generation plans dating back to the 1970s. A number of these earlier plans, as well as some of the more current plans, do not adequately meet the new demands and mandates that have emerged: rapid population growth throughout the West; listing of new threatened and endangered species; new standards for Clean Water and Clean Air Acts; and designation of new National Monuments and National Conservation Areas. As a result of plan deficiencies, shortfalls in the emerging areas, and conflicting public uses, the Bureau faces increased litigation. It is imperative that land-use plans are updated not only to comply with judicial decisions and meet the demands of these emerging issues and shortfalls, but also to meet the nation's energy and minerals needs while preserving and protecting other public land resources. The 162 land-use plans and accompanying NEPA documents are to be completely evaluated by the end of Fiscal Year 2002 to determine plans to be revised or amended to meet identified plan deficiencies.

External Interest and Advisory Group: House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, members of Congress, Resource Advisory Groups, other Federal agencies, Tribes, State and local governments, special interest groups and various publics.

Keywords: Land-use planning, budget, population growth, T&E species, tribes, RACs

Geographic Extent: Bureauwide.

For more information: Henri Bisson, AD-200 (202) 208-4896.

Planning

Livestock Grazing: Adjusting for Drought, Wildfires, and Insects

Actions on the horizon within the next 120 days: Assess range conditions and adjust livestock grazing use levels; process grazing fee refunds; prepare grazing decisions; plan to replace fire damaged fences and water troughs.

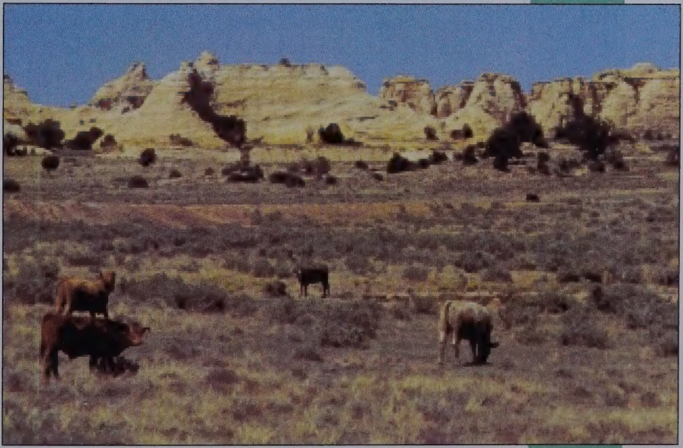
Facts: Several states experienced continuing drought this year. During a drought, rangelands produce less water and forage and can be "stressed" by normal grazing use. Extensive fires in Idaho and Montana last summer caused some BLM lands to become unavailable for livestock grazing until forage is replenished. Further affecting range productivity, grasshoppers and mormon crickets damaged BLM lands in Idaho and Utah. The BLM must take appropriate management actions to address these conditions.

Livestock operations will have to be modified on a permit-by-permit basis to adjust grazing use consistent with available forage supplies. Each field office will work with affected operators. Options include opening rested pastures, shifting use to allotments where non-use has occurred, shifting use to upper elevations or other areas of higher precipitation, and expediting range improvement permits for temporary water troughs for water haul sites. Discussions will include State and local agencies, and interested publics where appropriate. In some cases, when the BLM and livestock operators cannot agree on needed adjustments, the BLM must take formal actions to modify current grazing permits. Some of the adjustments to livestock operations made in response to drought, fire, and insects may be controversial.

The BLM is also taking actions to address drought related wild horse and burro issues (see page 26).

External Interest and Advisory Groups:
National Wild Horses and Burros Advisory Board; local BLM RACs; high interest from Congressional delegations, local and national environmental groups, and local and national advocacy groups.

Keywords:
Grazing, land-use authorization, Congressional oversight, wild horses and burros, budget, RACs, animal unit month (AUM), allotment.



Cattle grazing near St. George, Utah

Geographic Extent:
Bureau-wide.

For more information: Henri Bisson, AD-200 (202) 208-4896.

Wild horses suffering through drought conditions, begin to show physical distress

Wild Horse & Burros

Wild Horses & Burros Management Strategy

Actions on the horizon within the next 120 days: Gather, care for, and offer for adoption wild horses and burros; evaluate fiscal year 2001 planned actions considering unplanned gathers in 2000 due to drought; promote the adoption program.

Facts: The BLM developed a comprehensive wild horse and burro (WH&B) management strategy for achieving appropriate management level on all herd management areas (HMAs) in four years. Currently, WH&B populations are exceeding the appropriate management level on 159 of 192 HMAs. The BLM projects the population of horses and burros on BLM-managed lands is approximately 50,000 animals—23,000 over the estimated appropriate management level of 27,000, which increasingly results in impacts to the condition of the rangelands as well as the health of the animals. In fiscal year 2001, Congress approved the President's request for a $9 million increase in base funding to manage the wild horse and burro program consistent with the BLM's strategy. In the short term, the BLM must achieve the appropriate management level in the high priority HMAs in order to show success to the Congress and BLM's stakeholders, and solidify the long-term funding that is integral to the strategy.

Greatly complicating the BLM's efforts, the continuing drought in Nevada, Utah, Oregon, and California may require adjustments to the BLM's gathering schedule in fiscal year 2001. In 2000, 3,501 animals have been removed from 25 herd management areas (HMAs) primarily in response to drought conditions. The BLM is monitoring 10 additional HMAs, and may have to gather as many as 3,090 more wild horses and burros. Gathering and providing long-term care for these additional animals represent a significant, unplanned cost with facility and workload considerations not anticipated in the strategy.

External Interest and Advisory Groups: National Wild Horses and Burros Advisory Board; local BLM RACs; high interest from Congressional delegations, local and national environmental groups, and local and national advocacy groups.

Keywords: Wild horses and burros, mustang, appropriate management level, herd management areas, drought, Congressional oversight, budget, RACs.

Geographic Extent: Bureau-wide.

For more information: Henri Bisson, AD-200 (202) 208-4896.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Actions on the horizon within the next 120 days: For fuels management actions, reduce consultation backlogs so high priority treatments can be completed to protect communities at risk. Continue to develop conservation plans on a regional, multi-species basis. Resolve high priority Endangered Species Act (ESA) related disputes, like the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project.

Facts: Over 300 plant and animal species listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA inhabit lands administered by the BLM. Many more are being evaluated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service (Services) for listing. For all discretionary Federal actions that affect listed species, the BLM must consult with the applicable Service(s) as required by Section 7 of the ESA. Consultation is a key element to ensuring compliance with the Act. However, current and projected consultation requirements represent a significant workload for many BLM field units as well as the Services. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the planning for fuels reduction treatments around communities at risk from wildland fire. In the 2001 Appropriation, Congress directed the BLM to explore options to address the barrier that Section 7 consultations may represent to accomplishing on-the-ground results.

Other ESA considerations, like inventory, conservation planning and mitigation are also high priorities for the BLM. When the Bureau fails to adequately address ESA issues, lawsuits are filed which greatly hinder the BLM's ability to implement land-use plans.

Some species currently being studied for listing, like the sagegrouse, have tremendous implications on BLM's land management actions, affecting significant acreage of BLM managed land with ramifications on many types of land uses, like livestock grazing, mineral development, and off-highway vehicle use. Management of critical sagebrush habitats will be greatly influenced by the Service's final determination on the sage grouse. These important habitats were also affected by the recent wildland fires in Nevada, Idaho, and Montana. See Other Pending Issues, page 33 and Recent Litigation, page A-17 of Appendix F for additional information on the management of threatened and endangered species.

External Interest and Advisory Groups:
Environmental groups, state and local governments, other Federal agencies, BLM Resource Advisory Councils, Congress, local, state and national advocacy groups.

Keywords:
Threatened and endangered species, land-use planning, land-use authorization, lawsuit, ESA, Endangered Species Act, biological opinions.

Geographic Extent: Bureau-wide issue.

Contact:
Henri Bisson, AD-200 (202) 208-4896.

Sage grouse, a special status species, on of more than 100 dependent on the recovery of the sagebrush ecosystem.

Public Land Health/Assessment

Actions on the horizon within the next 120 days: Incorporate comments, finalize, and release the Land Health Standards Handbook.

Facts: The BLM has developed an overall strategy for assessing the health of the public lands. This strategy incorporates a hierarchical approach that uses watersheds as the basic geographic units. At the broadest scale, priority sub-basins are identified. These sub-basins are then further reviewed to delineate sub-units where more detailed assessments would be focused. Land health assessments are carried out on these sub-units using a common process applied across programs at the field office level. The Land Health Standards Handbook, currently in preparation, in conjunction with existing interagency references on watershed analysis, will provide guidance for this common process. An additional effort is underway to identify any new indicators necessary to extend the health standards to forest lands. The BLM is also in the process of developing a national format for reporting achievement of standards, causes for not meeting standards, and actions taken to ensure progress toward meeting those standards.

External Interest and Advisory Groups: Resource Advisory Councils (RACs), environmental groups (e.g. The Nature Conservancy, Natural Resources Defense Council, National Wildlife Federation), livestock associations (e.g. National Cattle Association), land grant universities, State Wildlife and Environmental Quality agencies, Tribes.

Keywords: Land health standards, assessments, water, T&E species, grazing, land-use authorizations, RACs, tribes

Geographic Extent: Bureau-wide.

For more information: Henri Bisson, AD-200 (202) 208-4896.

Workforce Management

Actions on the horizon within the next 120 days: As a result of human resources needs to address critical staffing requirements in the fire and non-fire programs to complete the work impacted by budget increases, the following actions are necessary:

- Implement a recruitment/hiring strategy, in concert with the Bureau's diversity plan.
- Develop and implement a strategy to provide necessary skills through contracting for activities that are not inherently governmental in nature.
- Determine employee development needs to meet the changing needs of the land management programs.

Facts: The BLM workforce consists of 9,001 permanent, full-time employees who work in a variety of occupations in areas such as natural resources, fire, law enforcement, and administration. In addition, the Bureau employs a large seasonal workforce, many of which are dedicated primarily to wildland firefighting and field work in the Western United States. The Bureau's workforce has decreased more than ten percent since 1992. Recent budget increases, however, coupled with the potential for a significant number of retirement-eligible employees to exit the BLM over the next several years, have resulted in an urgency to hire additional people into the BLM workforce. At the same time, managers will also have to go beyond traditional methods to acquire key skills, and use methods such as contracting and partnering.

External Interest and Advisory Groups: Local communities, State and local governments, colleges and universities, and private industry.

Taking water samples, Utah

Keywords:
Workforce, budget, training.

Geographic Extent:
Bureau-wide.

For more information:
Warren Johnson, Jr., AD-700 (202) 501-6723.

Business Improvements

Actions on the horizon within the next 120 days:

- Amend the FY 2001 Annual Performance Plan to enhance accountability related to funding increases in the Fire, Planning, National Landscape Conservation System, and Wild Horse and Burro program areas.
- Issue FY 2001 Annual Work Plan to allocate funding resources and establish work and performance accountability to the field, including entry of data into MIS.
- Clarify budget priorities and prepare FY 2002 President's Budget and Annual Performance Plan.
- Review FY 2000 cost-management information to assess program performance and complete reporting and cost-accounting requirements.
- Complete FY 2000 reporting requirements: Audit of FY 2000 Financial Statements, BLM Annual Performance Report, Departmental Accountability Report, and Stewardship Report.

Facts: To meet Congressional and public demand for improved government services and accountability, BLM has implemented a management framework that integrates planning, budgeting, financial reporting and performance measurement into a cohesive management process designed to improve results and further public accountability. The integrated system supports BLM efforts to meet legal mandates, improve program performance, and to better understand the cost of conducting business. The framework includes processes and tools to improve business practices:

- The 2000-2005 Strategic Plan and associated annual performance plans communicate BLM's priorities, long-term goals and performance measures to Congress and the public.
- The redesigned budget process responds to the complexities of public land management to more effectively align resources with priorities and work load. Integral to the budget process is a cost-management system that provides important business information about the costs of achieving our Strategic Plan goals as well as the Bureau's major work processes.
- At the core of the framework is a Management Information System (MIS), which contains program, financial, customer, performance, and cost-management data. Across the Bureau, field managers have access to this information to make more informed business decisions.

These processes and tools help BLM comply with the Budget Enforcement Act, Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), Chief Financial Officers Act, the Government Management Reform Act, the Federal Managers Financial Intergrity Act and the Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standards No. 4.

External Interest and Advisory Groups: Senate and House Appropriation Committees and General Accounting Office have shown concern with how the Bureau spends funds and uses cost accounting for management purposes. The Senate Government Affairs Committee continues to express interest in how agencies have institutionalized GPRA principles to improve service and demonstrate accountability for results. The Inspector General audits the BLM's financial records annually.

Keywords: Budget, annual work/performance plans, land-use planning, NLCS, WH&B, legislation, Congressional oversight, budget redesign, GPRA, Strategic Plan, cost management, MIS

Geographic Extent: Bureau-wide issue.

For more information: Robert E. Doyle, AD-800 (202) 208-4864

Information Management

Actions on the horizon within the next 120 days: Develop the Bureau Architecture and Information Technology Technical Reference Model; implement data standards strategy outlined in the BLM's Data Management Plan.

Facts: The BLM is defining its key business processes through the development of a Bureau Architecture (BA). The BA gives a comprehensive picture of the BLM's current and future work processes, information flows, corporate data needs, computer infrastructure, and areas where the BLM can improve and properly integrate business and information technology efforts (also see: www.blm.gov/ba). The BA currently shows only the most prominent features of the BLM's business, data, and information technology frameworks. As it becomes more fully developed, it will include more detailed descriptions, standards, and the relationships of all these elements. The Architecture will form the basis for the BLM's decisions concerning its major information technology investments. The BLM is also in the process of changing over to a faster, more secure nationwide data communications network. Radio communications, essential to our firefighting mission, are also undergoing renovation. The BLM has recognized the need to re-engineer its business practices to meet the growing demand by industry, public, and private constituencies while addressing electronic commerce and electronic business opportunities.

The BLM is responsible for about one billion records, including original surveys of the nation's public lands, legal records that transfer public lands to and from private or State and local governments or permit uses of public lands, and administrative records of decision. Many of the actions contained in those original documents have been recorded in automated systems used during deliberations of land use or administrative actions (also see: web.blm.gov/internal/wo-500/). The security and availability of those records responds to public interest in access to the land, improves the BLM's ability to manage the land for the benefit of current and future generations, and maintains public confidence in our decision making process. Handling these records properly provides the basis for their legal efficacy, which forms the basis for adjudication of conflicts.

Key legislation includes:

- Freedom of Information Act, and Electronic Freedom of Information Act, *governing the availability of Federal records to the public.*
- Privacy Act, *governing the protection and release of personal information from Federal records.*
- Government Paperwork Elimination Act, *directing agencies to provide electronic access to records and automate the information collection process for providing services.*
- Clinger-Cohen Act, *governing the acquisition of Information Technology.*
- Information Technology Act
- Federal Records Act

External Interest and Advisory Groups: GAO , OMB Watch, Congressional appropriators

Keywords: Technology, legislation, security, privacy, telecommunications, electronic government

Geographic Extent: Bureauwide, nationwide.

For more information: Hord Tipton, AD-500 (202) 452-7701, htipton@blm.gov

Other Pending Issues

Very brief overviews of other national as well as state-specific issues facing the BLM that are on the horizon within the next 120 days.

National Issues

Abandoned Mine Lands Cleanup Program

The abandoned mine lands cleanup program addresses water quality and safety problems related to abandoned mines in high priority watersheds on public lands. It focuses on cooperative efforts with other federal agencies, States, private sector and interest groups to achieve measurable improvement in water quality and water habitat and reduction of risk for recreationists and other public land users near former mine sites. For 2001 and beyond, the focus is on improving watershed management and cost recovery.

Cadastral Survey and Geographic Coordinate Data Base

The BLM's Cadastral Survey is the means by which all public lands (managed by the BLM and other Federal agencies) are legally described and platted, which is an ongoing and significant workload. Lands are surveyed using the rectangular survey system as described in the Book "Manual of Instructions for the Survey of the Public Lands of the United States." Surveys are made based on townships (36 mile square areas), sections (1 mile square areas) and subdivisions within sections. Lands must be surveyed before they can be sold or otherwise disposed of. The Geographic Coordinate Data Base (GCDG) is an integrated network of survey records, horizontal control and land descriptions, that portray the Public Land Survey System.

Canada Lynx

Effective April 24, 2000, the Canada lynx became listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. The BLM and Forest Service are currently mapping lynx habitat and, in concert with the Fish and Wildlife Service, will evaluate if land use plan changes are necessary to ensure long-term conservation of lynx on BLM and Forest Service lands.

Columbia Basin Fish, conservation of

Historically, 10-16 million salmon and steelhead returned to the Columbia Basin to spawn each year. Today only about a million fish return. Due to this precipitous decline, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) listed 12 Columbia Basin Evolutionarily Significant Units as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Nine federal agencies formed the Federal Caucus in 1999 to examine opportunities to recover the listed fish. A recent Biological Opinion issued by the NMFS focuses short term efforts on restoration of habitat, through management actions on Federal lands.

Clean Water Action Plan

Consistent with the recently completed Clean Water Action Plan (CWAP), federal partners will focus management attention on Category 1 watersheds containing impaired waters as identified by the States and Tribes. Restoration actions will include maintaining roads, restoring riparian areas, conducting forest and rangeland health assessments, reclaiming mining operations and permitting uses with appropriate stipulations to maintain water quality. Another product of the CWAP was the development of the Unified Federal Policy, which describes an interagency approach to watershed management.

Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Conflict

Based upon the success of CBM production in the San Juan Basin of New Mexico and Colorado, a CBM development boom began in the shallow coal fields of the Powder River Basin of Northeast Wyoming. De-watering of the coal seams is necessary to depressurize the coal seam in order to free the gas from the solid coal. Surface disposal of the high volumes of this relatively fresh water has become a contentious issue facing BLM.

Emergency Fire Rehabilitation

The Emergency Fire Rehabilitation program is designed to mitigate the adverse affects of unplanned wildfire. Overall goals are to protect life and property; protect the basic soil, water and vegetation resources; prevent unacceptable on or off site damages; reduce the invasion and establishment of undesirable or invasive species; and facilitate meeting land use plan objectives to achieve range or forest land health. Over the last five years average costs of this program have approached $13 million. The BLM's budget in fiscal year 2001 includes over $66 million for fire rehabilitation.

Emerging Geothermal Issues

Emerging geothermal issues are directly related to the nation's energy requirements. Industry has expressed concerns about the BLM's priority for timely siting facility approvals which are necessary for full development of geothermal energy. Consistent policies needs to be established as well as more extensive communication between agencies regarding geothermal development.

Facilities and Transportation Program

The BLM's engineering programs take the designs of BLM resource program managers and create the structures, roads, and (tools) to accomplish resource objectives. The facilities and transportation program also maintains over $5 billion worth of BLM managed facilities. The focus for 2001 and beyond, is effective and timely obligation of funds and completion of the planned work in a time of shrinking staffs and growing funds by building future management capability.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Relicensing

Over the next 10 years approximately 40 waterpower projects located on public lands, principally in the northwest, are due to expire. Although the relicensing of these projects is a responsibility of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, resource agencies, including BLM, have a responsibility to ensure that resource values are protected or enhanced. During the original licensing phase for these projects, which occurred 40-50 years ago, no protective resource management conditions were applied to FERC licenses. BLM is actively working with FERC and other resource agencies to ensure that appropriate stipulations to protect resource values are made a part of the newly issued licenses.

Geographic Information System (GIS)

GIS technology provides BLM with the capability to store, retrieve, analyze and share vast quantities of resource management data. BLM plans to make GIS tools available at every desk top, allowing users to share data across program lines. Development and application of Bureau-wide corporate data standards is a high priority for BLM.

Grazing Permit Renewal

In FY 2001, about 1,646 grazing permits will need to be renewed. Permit renewal is a federal action that is subject to conformance with land use plans and compliance with Federal laws and regulations for protection of the environment including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Historic Preservation Act, Endangered Species Act, and others. Renewing grazing permits consistent with land health standards is a high priority for the BLM.

Great Basin Restoration Initiative

The Great Basin encompasses most of Nevada, the lower third of Idaho, the western half of Utah, the southeast corner of Oregon, and a narrow strip of northeastern California. About 75 million acres in the Great Basin are administered by the BLM. Today, the Great Basin's vast landscape is changing. Invading weeds and noxious plants, wildfires, plus past human uses have affected the condition of much of the Great Basin. The initiative calls for the BLM to develop solutions in a collaborative manner to address issues of land health, including fire rehabilitation, wild horses and burros, and critical habitat for wildlife and threatened and endangered species.

Hazardous Materials Management Program

The hazardous materials management program addresses priority cleanup of hazardous materials on public lands that result from illegal dumping and transportation spills, and releases of hazardous substances from past authorized activities such as landfills, mineral development operations, pipelines, and airports, through implementation of BLM's CERCLA authority. The program also focuses on environmental management of BLM facilities nationwide to ensure these federal facilities and their activities are in compliance with applicable environmental regulations. The goal of the hazardous materials management program is to protect human health and the environment and to provide safe conditions for visitors to public land and for BLM employees.

Heritage Resources, Report to Congress

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation will issue a Report to Congress on Historic Preservation in November 2000. The report will raise questions about the on-going viability of significant archaeological and historic places on the public lands. The Office of the Inspector General, in an audit report released in September 1999, recommended that BLM develop and implement a Bureauwide long-range surveying plan for cultural sites which prioritizes those areas that have the most cultural significance. The BLM will complete a strategy for at risk cultural resources in FY 2001.

Holding Fees Expenditures Follow Up

The General Accounting Office audited BLM's Mining Law expenditures which are paid for by holding fee receipts and found funds to be incorrectly obligated. The BLM committed to identifying and reimbursing any incorrectly obligated funds to the Mining Law Administration Program. A BLM Team found that approximately $877,358 in fiscal years 1998 and 1999, contracts were mis-coded to the Mining Law subactivity. Steps have been taken to shift these obligations to appropriate budget accounts in fiscal year 2001.

Indian Trust

BLM has a legal trust obligation regarding the development of tribal and allottee energy and mineral resources which includes approval of drilling permits, plans of operation and production, mineral appraisals, and inspection and enforcement activities. With existing workloads and funding, BLM is unable to ensure that Indian trust resources are developed such that economic returns are maximized and are in the best interest of the Indian mineral owner. Increased staffing is needed to ensure trust responsibilities are satisfied.

Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICBEMP)

The Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project covers 63 million acres of BLM and Forest Service managed land in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and parts of Montana. The associated land use plan will set priorities for forest and rangeland restoration and the conservation and restoration of critical wildlife and fish habitats, and establish sustainable levels of timber harvesting and livestock grazing. A Final EIS is planned for release in the spring of 2001.

Land Health Standards

Land health standards have been incorporated into all BLM land use plans. These standards describe conditions essential to the maintenance of healthy, productive lands and were developed with public participation at the state and district level. Standards for soil, water, vegetation, and threatened and endangered species habitat are considered when making any decision affecting BLM lands.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Acquisition

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) funds purchasing private lands by land managing agencies. The BLM has been authorized to obtain funding under this law since 1970. BLM's appropriation for LWCF funding for fiscal year 2001 is set at $35.4 million.

Land Withdrawal Program

Land withdrawals are the means by which public lands are transferred from one Federal agency to another, or removed from operation of the public land laws and/or reserved for a specific purpose. A withdrawal must be approved by an Assistant Secretary or higher ranking Department official. Regulations to simplify the process have been developed and are being reviewed by the Solicitor's office.

Legacy Rehost 2000 (LR2000)

LR2000, an automated land and minerals records database, replaced the legacy system Case Recordation in 1999. The BLM fielded this program when it became apparent that the Automated Lands and Minerals Recordation System (ALMRS) effort to replace the Case Recordation system, was headed for failure. The successful LR2000 system was also needed to comply with the Executive Order to have all federal computer systems Y2K-compliant.

Minerals Cost Recovery Proposed Regulations

Currently under review in Department, this is a proposed rulemaking, which would create new fees or raise most of our existing fees to recover our processing costs in all BLM minerals programs.

Mineral Materials Disposal Regulations

BLM published a proposed rule revising current regulations in 43 CFR 3600, which regulate how the agency disposes of mineral materials from public lands. Public comment period on the proposed rule ends on Nov. 13, 2000.

Mineral Patent Applications, 5-Year Plan to Process

Congress ordered the Secretary to take final action on all grand-fathered mineral patent applications by

September 30, 2001. The Department started with 398 grand-fathered mineral patent applications and now has 208 left. BLM has 94 in various stages of processing and 63 in Solicitor's Office, with the remaining applications in the Office of Hearings and Appeals.

Mines Ministries of the Americas Conference

The United States is taking its turn as a member of the coordinating Committee for the 2001 Mines Ministries of the Americas Conference (CAMMA is the Spanish acronym), the only high-level (ministerial) minerals and metals forum in the Americas and one of only two in the world. A BLM person(s) will be on the committee to: plan and coordinate CAMMA meetings and activities; implement an annual work plan for activities to be carried out by mining ministers (Interior's Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management for the United States) based on CAMMA declarations; and monitor the progress on issues or projects adopted in the annual declarations. The Conference recognizes the important contribution of mining to the development of our respective economies; acknowledging the role that the sustainable development of minerals and metals can have in improving the well being of our communities while minimizing the environmental impacts of mining development. It is committed to supporting and promoting the implementation of policies which take into account environmental, social and economical considerations in government decision making, supported by science. It addresses environmental consequences of unregulated mining and promotes a level playing field for all mining companies in the requirements for mitigation and pollution prevention in exploration, mining and reclamation in the Western Hemisphere.

Mining Administration

The BLM's surface mining "3809" regulations were originally issued in 1980 with a commitment to review for possible revisions. That commitment finally culminated during the last quarter of 2000 resulting in a revision of the regulations that will be published in late November 2000. The revised 3809 regulations would strengthen environmental protection and accountability by adding standards to further protect riparian habitat and water resources, and require all operators other than casual users to submit financial guarantees in the event the land is not reclaimed following mining operations. The Department is of the opinion that the BLM complied with the recommendations of the National Academy of Science study. However, industry does not agree that the Department has met the spirit and intent of the 2001 Appropriation rider "consistency" standard of the NAS study. Industry contends that the Department's decision to add a new component to the FLPMA's mandate of preventing "undue or unnecessary degradation"––the "significant irreparable harm" provision is, in fact, a veto provision for the BLM to reject mining proposals.

National Petroleum Forum

The concept of a national oil and gas work group was proposed during the performance review of BLM's oil and gas program. The forum has been used since 1999 to institute an ongoing dialogue with industry in order to exchange information, address concerns and resolve issues.

Native Plant Restoration/ International Agreement

The Bureau recognizes the need for native plant materials for restoration purposes. The Royal Botanic Gardens is offering technical and financial support to BLM to initiate a seed collecting and conservation project for native species on BLM managed land. Significant matching funds are also being pledged from the private sector. As part of the fire rehabilitation program long term contracts need to be developed to nurture a commercial seed production industry.

Northwest Forest Plan

The Northwest Forest Plan, signed in 1994, was declared sufficient by the courts to settle ongoing lawsuits regarding the northern spotted owl, logging, and the old-growth federal forests of the Pacific Northwest. However, new lawsuits over the harvest of old growth timber have significantly impacted the region's ability to implement the plan. The BLM expects on- going disputes over timber sales until the survey and manage supplemental EIS is completed.

Oil and Gas, Idle/ Inactive Orphan Well Initiative

A team from Wyoming, New Mexico and California is working with the BLM's headquarter Office to develop a policy relating to idle and abandoned oil and gas wells. Many of the bonds for idle or abandoned wells do not fully cover all the abandonment costs thereby creating a financial liability for the BLM. The team is working closely with States and tribal governments to identify potential funding sources.

Oil and Gas, Revitalizing Inspection and Enforcement Program

To address increasing workloads and limited funding and staff, the BLM is revitalizing its oil and gas inspection and enforcement program to develop an efficient and effective process to ensure regulatory compliance, environmental protection, production accountability, and public health and safety. The plan focuses on increasing management oversight and involvement, maintaining staff expertise and skills, and increasing resources to meet national inspection goals. In fiscal year 2001, the BLM will be implementing key steps of the plan.

Heavy Oil Royalty Reduction Program

The heavy oil royalty rate reduction program for heavy oil category Federal properties was initiated to provide industry with incentives to continue producing during the period of low oil prices. Due to the recent increase in oil prices, the BLM is evaluating the need for the heavy oil royalty rate reduction program. (Heavy oil is crude oil with a weighted average gravity of less than 20 degrees as measured on the American Petroleum Institute scale.)

Oil, Stripper Well Program

The BLM initiated the stripper oil royalty rate reduction program for stripper category Federal properties (featuring wells producing fewer than 15 barrels per day on average) to provide industry with incentives to continue producing during the period of low oil prices. Due to the recent increase in oil prices, the BLM is evaluating the need for the stripper well royalty rate reduction program.

Recreational Fee Demonstration Program

The Bureau of Land Management is participating in the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program. The program authorizes the agencies to implement and test new fees, to retain the revenues collected, and to use the revenues to provide for on-the-ground improvements at the recreation sites. The BLM has increased its fee projects from 10 in 1997 to the statutory limit of 100 projects in FY 2000. The total recreation fees collected by the BLM under all fee authorities in FY 1999 was $6.7 million.

Resource Advisory Councils

Resource Advisory Councils were established in 1995 throughout the West to provide an opportunity for individuals from all backgrounds and interests to have a voice in the planning and management of public land resources located in their geographic areas. Secretarial authority to establish local BLM advisory committees is provided in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. The Resource Advisory Councils comprise the full array of interests associated with the public lands and bring a balanced and practical approach to collaborative stewardship, providing a forum for reaching consensus. A public Call for Nominations to fill approximately one-third of each Council's membership is normally issued in February or March, to fill expiring members' terms.

Rights-of-Way Cost Recovery

Cost recovery is authorized by both the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. The BLM has collected costs to reimburse the agency for expenses in processing rights-of-way for over 20 years, but the existing regulations are out of date. Final regulations to update the costs the BLM receives for processing rights-of-way are anticipated to be published in December 2000. These regulations, found in 43 CFR 2800, will update the costs received and address other rights-of-way issues such as providing better customer service.

Rights-of-Way Increased Infrastructure Needs in New Technologies, and Oil and Gas Pipelines

The demand for telecommunications rights of way is expected to double within the next 2-3 years as part of the expansion of a nationwide telecommunications network. Also, increased emphasis on domestic production of energy supplies and the increased use of clean burning natural gas for electrical energy production is fueling the demand for more pipeline capacity. The demand for additional oil and gas pipelines, and thus rights of way, is expected to increase by as much as 40 percent within the next 2-3 years. The BLM does not currently have the resources to process the explosive demand expected for additional rights of way for these critical infrastructure needs.

Riparian Wetland Initiative

Riparian areas are the "green zones" between water and uplands. These scarce but valuable ecosystems play an important role in watershed function and are critical for water, wildlife and human uses, especially in the arid west. Restoration of these areas is a high priority. BLM improved 1,460 miles of riparian areas in 1998 and 1,500 miles in 1999 through implementation of 400 to 500 restoration projects annually.

Spirit Cave Remains

The Nevada State Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has issued a decision, under the provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, which determines that human remains and funerary objects excavated on public lands at Spirit Cave, Nevada in 1940 and maintained for sixty years at the Nevada State Museum, are not culturally affiliated with the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe or any other contemporary tribe. The Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe remains firm in its position that the remains from Spirit Cave are affiliated with the tribe. Litigation is possible.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act

This law provides for the sale or exchange of lands within the confines of the Las Vegas Valley, Nevada, with the proceeds to be used for acquiring environmentally sensitive lands with the State. Funds may also be used to build capital improvements in certain recreation areas, and to reimburse BLM for its costs in administering the Act. Also, 5 percent of funds received shall be paid to the State and 10 percent shall be paid to the Southern Nevada Water Authority. Two sales have been held using this authority with a third scheduled for November 2000.

Streamlined Consultations/ Endangered Species Act Compliance

In response to a 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling, the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service developed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to streamline programmatic consultations, including guidelines and procedures for section 7 consultations for listed species and consideration of candidate species conservation.

Tribal Coordination

With the exception of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has the widest range of responsibilities in the Government-to-Government relationship with Indian tribes and Alaskan native communities, of any bureau in the Department of the Interior. These responsibilities include services delivered directly to Indians in their status as Indians, such as tribal/allottee minerals management and cadastral survey, protection of treaty rights for location, hunting, fishing and gathering in the Pacific Northwest, and trust impact determinations when activities on public lands occur adjacent or proximate to Indian lands. In land management planning, the BLM must consider tribal resource management plans, insofar as they apply, and seek cooperative opportunities. Finally, the BLM must consult with tribes when activities on the public lands may impact significant sites of cultural or religious significance to them.

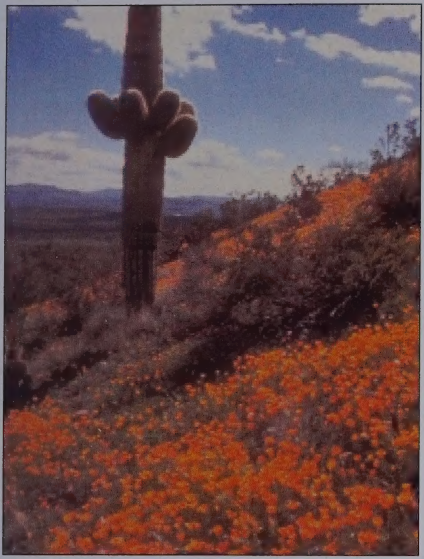
Weed Management

The greatest threat to healthy watersheds and rangelands may be the explosion of noxious weeds and non-native invasive plants like cheatgrass or salt cedar. Weeds are exploding at a rate of 2,300 acres per day on the BLM administered public lands and double that for all public lands combined. To combat this threat the Bureau employs an Integrated Weed Management strategy, using chemical, biological, and cultural methods of weed control. The FY 2001 appropriations includes funding to rehabilitate lands affected by fire presenting BLM a unique opportunity to address weed management in burned areas. Also, BLM received an additional $1.5 million specifically to treat noxious weeds.

State Issues

Arizona: Federal/State Land Exchange Agreement

An October 1999 agreement between the Department of Interior and the State of Arizona paves the way for the eventual transfer of approximately 150,000 acres of State trust land to the federal government in return for acreage of equivalent value from BLM lands. Many of the lands are scattered inholdings in several Arizona National Parks, Monuments, Wilderness Areas and Wildlife Refuges. Also, the federal government will satisfy its last remaining obligation from the federal land grant to the State in the 1910 Statehood Enabling Act. The agreement calls for the exchange to be enacted legislatively, and on June 29, Senator John McCain (R-AZ) introduced the Arizona Land Exchange Facilitation Act of 2000 (S 2813). No action was taken on this bill during the 106th Congress.



BLM and the State of Arizona reached an agreement to exchange lands that will preserve desert lands around the Lake Pleasant area in north Phoenix

In the next 120 days:

Continue work between the Arizona State Land Department and Arizona BLM to finalize the offered and selected land packages. Additional work with Senator McCain's staff will be required early in the 107th Congress to fine tune the legislation for the exchange process to proceed.

For more information:

Arizona State Director Denise Meridith (602) 417-9500

Arizona: Arrastra Wilderness Access and Range Improvements

The BLM Arizona decision in the Arrastra Mountain Wilderness Inholding Access Environmental Assessment, authorized spot repair by motorized equipment and use of motor vehicles to access the private land inholding in Peoples Canyon. In addition, the Arrastra Mountain Wilderness Range Improvement Maintenance Plan authorized limited use of motorized equipment by grazing permittees for repair and maintenance of fences, corrals, and water facilities within the wilderness. The decisions were appealed by the National Wildlife Federation, and Eric and Tina Barnes (landowner and rancher), but affirmed by the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), stating that repair of the route and motorized access to the inholding and motor vehicle use for range improvement repairs are not contrary to the Wilderness Act. These two decisions were stayed on July 20, 2000, by the Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management, placing on hold all range improvement maintenance actions and any inholding access by motor vehicle in the wilderness. The Director and Assistant Secretary have reviewed the decisions and IBLA rulings, and BLM is preparing revised wilderness management regulations.

In the next 120 days:

Completion of wilderness regulations and Federal Register notice are needed. BLM Arizona needs to review wilderness management and grazing operation plans to make sure they are in compliance with the new regulations.

Fore more information:

Arizona State Director Denise Meridith (602) 417-9500

California: Desert Conservation Area Plan Lawsuit

In March 2000, the Center for Biological Diversity, Sierra Club, and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, filed a lawsuit concerning BLM's implementation of the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan. The plaintiffs allege BLM is in violation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) because it has not completed a comprehensive ESA consultation on the overall CDCA Plan. The principal legal issue is whether BLM's prior Section 7 consultation efforts conform to the standard set by the Pacific Rivers Council v. Thomas decision of the Ninth Circuit

Court. The suit is before the U.S. Federal District Court for the Northern District of California, San Francisco Division, and settlement negotiations are ongoing before a U.S. Magistrate. BLM is scheduled for formal consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service by January 31, 2001, concerning the overall effects of CDCA Plan implementation on 24 federally listed threatened and endangered species. While the consultation is pending, the plaintiffs have asked for certain remedial measures to ameliorate the effects of CDCA Plan implementation on selected threatened and endangered species. Settlement discussions have resulted in an agreement to close portions of the Algodones Dunes (Imperial County, CA) to Off-Highway Vehicle use during the consultation period. It is estimated to cost $1.3 million above normal operational and administrative costs to implement this closure in FY 2001. The plaintiffs have also filed a motion to enjoin BLM from authorizing, permitting, or otherwise allowing livestock grazing within designated desert tortoise critical habitat during the consultation period, and have expressed concerns about numerous other ongoing CDCA Plan activities.

In the next 120 days:

The BLM needs to secure funding to implement the closures and other remedial measures that result from the ongoing settlement discussions and possible court ordered injunctions. The estimate is for as much as $5.3 million in FY 2001.

For more information:

California State Director Mike Pool (916-978-4600)

California; Groundwater Storage and Dry-Year Supply Program

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), in cooperation with Cadiz Inc., has presented a proposal identifying the Cadiz and Fenner Valleys in San Bernardino County as potential sites for subsurface water storage of Colorado River water. The private lands owned by Cadiz Inc. would be used by the MWD to allow excess water from the Colorado River to be pumped to infiltration ponds located on a limited portion of the Cadiz land and allowed to percolate into the water table to be stored. During dry years, the stored water would be pumped out to supply MWD customers through a 35-mile pipeline over BLM public land, and some indigenous groundwater is proposed to be transferred utilizing the same facilities.

A BLM supplement to the draft environmental impact report (EIR/EIS) published on October 20, 2000, focuses on clarifying the project description and presenting a detailed Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan (GMMP). The GMMP also establishes a series of action criteria, or trigger points, that will require review by a panel of technical experts to determine if the trigger is a precursor to a potential impact. The GMMP includes a process for scientists from federal agencies, MWD, the County of San Bernardino, and Cadiz, Inc. to review information gathered under the management plan, discuss interpretations of the data, and develop scientifically-based findings on the Cadiz project.

In the next 120 days:

A 45-day comment period on the supplement ends December 4, 2000, but extensions have already been requested by the public. Depending on comments and any decisions regarding an extension, a Final EIS/EIR could be issued in early 2001, with a Record of Decision on issuance of the right-of-way a minimum of 30 days later.

For more information:
California State Director Mike Pool (916-978-4600)

California: Chemehuevi Land Trust Patent

On behalf of the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has asked BLM to issue a trust patent (final title) to its existing 30,000-acre reservation along the Colorado River in San Bernardino County, California. BLM is responsible for determining the Tribe's and other private parties' rights associated with the reservation in cooperation with BIA under Federal law and in accordance with the Department of the Interior's trust responsibilities for Native American tribes. BLM is now reviewing all these legal issues and expects to have a draft trust patent available for public review in two to three months, once all requested data, including existing encumbrances on the property that BIA has authorized, have been received.

In the next 120 days:
Issuance of draft trust patent; possibly final trust patent

For more information:
California State Director Mike Pool (916-978-4600)

California: Fort Irwin Expansion/West Mojave Plan

The Army is seeking to expand its 640,000-acre National Training Center at Fort Irwin in the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) to provide additional lands for brigade-level armored training. Consultations are ongoing between the Departments of Interior (DOI) and Defense (DOD) to find a joint recommendation which would continue to meet Army National Training Center training needs while ensuring conservation of habitat necessary for recovery of the threatened desert tortoise in the Western Mojave portion of the CDCA. Recently a blue ribbon team of scientists examined current information and issued a comprehensive report concerning the effects of the Army's proposal on the desert tortoise.

In the next 120 days:
A tentative internal agreement has recently been reached by DOI and DOD and is being reviewed by both Secretaries. Once consensus is achieved, decisions will be made about how the agreed-upon expansion configuration, as well as alternatives, will be analyzed in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

For more information:
California State Director Mike Pool (916-978-4600)

California: Glamis Imperial Mine

Glamis Imperial Mine is a proposed open-pit, gold mining operation about 45 miles northeast of El Centro, California. Archeological and cultural features and religious significance to the Quechan Tribe make it eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. On January 3, 2000, Secretary Babbitt approved the Solicitor's guidance on BLM's legal authority to deny the mine if necessary because of its undue impairment of nationally significant cultural values. On April 14, Glamis Imperial Corporation filed a lawsuit against the Department of Interior over the Solicitor's Opinion on the undue impairment standards. A final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR), with the preferred alternative of no action (denial of the plan of operations) will be published November 9, 2000. A Record of Decision on the project is planned for release at the end of the year.

In the next 120 days:

Release the final EIS/EIR and Record of Decision. Glamis is expected to sue BLM alleging a taking of its mining claims.

For more information:

California State Director Mike Pool (916-978-4600)

Eastern States: Wild Horse and Burro Adoptions

In FY 2001, BLM will begin implementation of a national strategy aimed at reducing wild horses and burros on public lands from an estimated population of over 45,000 to approximately 24,000. This is necessary to reduce adverse impacts to rangelands from overgrazing, as well as to allow recovery of lands damaged by fire or drought which are no longer capable of supporting wild horses and burros. The strategy will entail removal of increased numbers of wild horses and burros from public lands and placing excess animals in the adoption program or in long-term pasturing facilities. Adoption is the major placement strategy for excess animals. The BLM Eastern States wild horse and burro adoption program is the largest in the Bureau, and its role as a major adopter will be critical to the success of the national strategy. Concurrently, BLM is increasing its national marketing activities for wild horses and burros. It is anticipated that public interest in adopting will increase and that the Eastern States' role will grow.

In the next 120 days:

Ongoing. Increased emphasis on adoptions in early calendar year 2001 as gathers fill up BLM facilities.

For more information:

Eastern States Director Gayle Gordon (703) 440-1700

Eastern States: Northern Virginia Land Transaction

The BLM is processing a land exchange of about 230 acres at the Lorton Correctional Complex in Lorton, Virginia, for about 900 acres of private land at Meadowood Farm on Mason Neck in Fairfax County, Virginia. This proposal was initiated in response to legislation closing the Lorton facility and authorizing an exchange for part of the facility land. BLM plans to use part of the property for a wild horse and burro education center and the remaining property for open-space, low-impact recreation and environmental education. A site-specific management plan would be prepared after acquisition to address management opportunities for the farm.

Lorton land exchange could showcase BLM's stewardship to Eastern populations

In the next 120 days:

Complete the property appraisals. BLM anticipates a final decision on whether to complete the exchange in early 2001.

For more information:

Eastern States Director Gayle Gordon
(703) 440-1700

Idaho: Salmon Lawsuit

On October 5, the Idaho Watershed Project and the Committee for Idaho's High Desert filed a Notice of Intent to sue BLM for violations of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and other federal laws. The notice was filed in accordance with the 60-day notice requirement of Section 11(g) of the ESA. The plaintiffs allege that BLM funds are used to improve and maintain water diversions and ditches on BLM lands that divert water out of the Pahsemeroi and Lemhi river watersheds, that these activities de-water river systems, obstruct fish passage, and impact the breeding ability of listed fish species. The plaintiffs further assert livestock grazing that BLM authorizes within these watersheds is causing ecological damage to riparian and aquatic habitats, and that BLM is allowing access by private interests to maintain the diversions without an adequate NEPA assessment or associated consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service.

In the next 120 days:

BLM response to Notice of Intent.

For more information:

Martha Hahn, State Director
(208) 373-4001

Idaho: Coeur d'Alene Basin Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Lawsuit

A century of mining related activities resulted in widespread contamination of northern Idaho's Coeur d'Alene Basin with heavy metals and other pollutants. The Departments of the Interior and Agriculture and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe (collectively known as the Federal Trustees) filed a lawsuit in 1996 seeking damages from the responsible parties that would be used for restoring the affected resources. The Federal Trustees have spent several years conducting a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) of Coeur d'Alene Basin trust resources. The NRDA Report of Injury Assessment and Injury Determination, issued in September 2000, contains a summary of the data and the analysis of the Trustees' injury determination studies, together with a comprehensive analysis of previously existing information concerning trust natural resources in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. The NRDA will be used to support the charges brought in the lawsuit, which is scheduled for trial on January 22, 2001.

In addition to participating in NRDA efforts, BLM is continuing clean-up efforts as the major landowner (with 47,000 acres) in the Pine Creek drainage, the major tributary to the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River. Efforts include removal of hazardous materials, applying clean soil, recontouring and revegetating at seven historic mill sites. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has used Superfund authority to continue cleanup work within the epicenter of the highest hazardous releases in the historic mining district. At the same time, EPA is conducting a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS), to assess what work remains to clean up hazardous releases which have migrated throughout the adjoining Basin and down the Coeur d'Alene River corridor, including into Lake Coeur d'Alene and the State of Washington.

In the next 120 days:

The Federal Trustees are preparing for trial on the NRDA lawsuit, which is scheduled to begin January 22, 2001. Comments on EPA's RI/FS reports, including the Draft Ecological Risk Assessment, are due November 6, 2000. An RI/FS report with the identification of a preferred clean up and remedial alternative is expected by January 2001.

For more information:

Martha Hahn, State Director
(208) 373-4001

Montana: Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Project

Of 26.6 million acres of BLM and Forest Service lands in Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota, about 16 million acres are open to motorized cross-country travel seasonally or year-long. This use has the potential to spread noxious weeds, create user conflicts, cause erosion, damage cultural sites, and disrupt wildlife and wildlife habitat. With an increase in OHV traffic and changes in technology, the public and land management agencies recognize the need to evaluate the current management decisions for those areas where driving cross-country is currently allowed. A change in management direction will be accomplished through an interagency plan amendment and environmental impact statement (EIS). The plan amendment addresses the use of wheeled, motorized vehicles designed for and/or capable of travel off roads and trails, but does not address snowmobile use. When the plan amendment is completed, BLM and FS will continue to develop travel management plans for geographical areas (i.e., landscape analysis, watershed plans, or activity plans), if necessary. Through travel planning, roads and trails would be inventoried, mapped, analyzed and designated as open, seasonally open, or closed. In addition, site-specific travel planning may identify areas for trail construction and/or improvement or specific areas where intensive OHV use may be appropriate.

Indescriminate off-highway travel contributes to erosion

In the next 120 days:

The Final EIS will be issued in mid-January 2001, immediately following the release of BLM's National OHV strategy. Several postponements have delayed the release of the final EIS and affect BLM's credibility in Montana.

For more information:

Montana State Director Mat Millenbach (406-896-5012)

Montana: Coal Bed Methane and Conventional Oil and Gas EIS and RMP Amendment

Industry projects a potential for 10,000 coal bed methane (CBM) wells in the Powder River Resource Management Plan (RMP) area of southeastern Montana over the next 10 years, in addition to an unspecified number of conventional oil and gas wells. To analyze an increased interest in oil and gas activity, a resource management plan (RMP) amendment and environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality is the state lead for the EIS, and BLM proposes that it be a co-lead with the State of Montana to prepare a joint EIS to analyze CBM and conventional oil and gas exploration and development.

In the next 120 days:

BLM is currently developing draft planning criteria in preparation for the EIS. In December 2000/January 2001, BLM will issue a Federal Register Notice to announce a notice of intent to plan, begin scoping, and request public comment on the draft planning criteria.

For more information:

Montana State Director Mat Millenbach (406-896-5012)

Utah; Statewide EIS/Plan Amendment Planning Process

In March 1999 Utah BLM initiated a statewide EIS/Plan Amendment planning process considering the designation of new wilderness study areas (WSAs) on 136 separate areas encompassing 2.6 million acres of public lands. In November 1999, Utah BLM restructured its planning process in response to scoping feedback and a moratorium on WSA planning in certain areas of the west desert region of Utah. Instead of preparing a single EIS for all inventory areas throughout the state, the BLM will use a staged approach that divides the plan amendment process into four regional studies. The first of the regional studies focuses on approximately 640,000 acres found in 34 inventory areas administered by the Moab and Monticello Field Offices located in Grand and San Juan Counties. The draft wilderness study area EIS/Plan Amendment for the southeast region is currently under internal review prior to release to the public. The Utah Wilderness Coalition supports the planning; however, the Coalition will want the BLM to consider additional lands identified in the coalition's more recent wilderness proposal, if they were not inventoried by the BLM. The State of Utah, Utah Association of Counties, and the State Institutional Trust Lands Administration filed an unsuccessful lawsuit to stop the BLM wilderness inventory, and do not support the BLM planning process. This Utah issue has implications for other states engaged in the wilderness inventory process and review.

In the next 120 days:

A release of the EIS/Plan Amendment for the southeast region and the start of the public review and comment process will begin.

For more information:

Utah State Director Sally Wisely (801-539-4010)

Utah: San Rafael Swell National Conservation Area and National Heritage Area Nomination

In 1998 elected officials and interest groups in Emery County joined to establish the San Rafael Swell National Heritage Area and San Rafael Swell National Conservation Area (NCA) in the state of Utah. The proposed National Conservation Area seeks to properly manage lands, habitat, wildlife, and people. The National Heritage Area would preserve the remarkable history, folklore, and heritage of the area. The

San Rafael Swell, Utah

San Rafael Swell is located in southeastern Utah encompassing 630,000 acres in Emery, Carbon and Sanpete counties. Most lands within the area are managed by the BLM. In 1998, Emery County commissioners developed a legislative proposal seeking to overcome the longtime stalemate over wilderness by suggesting protections for many areas, but protections not as stringent as required by wilderness. In 2000, Utah BLM assisted Emery County in development of a bill that it could support.

In the next 120 days:

Legislative action may occur because Emery County and Carbon County commissioners and Utah Delegation vow to continue their efforts to create the NCA and NHA.

For more information:

Utah State Director Sally Wisely (801-539-4010)

Wyoming: Jack Morrow Hills Coordinated Activity Plan

The Jack Morrow Hills Coordinated Activity Plan (JMHCAP) is being developed to provide a framework for managing the BLM-administered public lands and resources and allocating some of these uses in the 622,330 acre planning area. The JMHCAP will provide more specific management direction to address conflicts among potential development of energy resources, recreational activities and facilities, wildlife and wildlife habitat, and cultural resources. It will also provide more specific management direction for land and resource uses for livestock grazing, important wildlife habitat, vegetation, soils, air, and watershed, recreation, and cultural values. The Draft EIS was released in July and the comment period ended October 5, 2000.

In the next 120 days:

Review over 12,000 comments received and prepare the final EIS.

For more information:

Wyoming State Director Al Pierson (307-775-6001)

Wyoming: Coal Bed Methane Drainage

The Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Drainage Environmental Assessment (EA) will analyze the impacts of drilling between 1,500 and 2,500 CBM wells within the Wyodak, Wyoming, area to protect Federal leases from drainage. Drainage of the Federal CBM mineral estate is occurring in the Powder River Basin in northeast Wyoming causing the loss of an estimated $20,000 per day in royalty revenues. The reasonable foreseeable development scenario of 5,890 wells included in the Wyodak CBM EIS (signed November 1999) was reached by mid-August 2000. Approvals for drilling on Federal leases were suspended during preparation of the Wyodak CBM EIS, but drilling on fee and state land in the area continued, using up over 4,000 of the 5,000 "slots" available for drilling before BLM could resume approvals for federal wells last November. The other 898 wells beyond the 5,000 were grandfathered applications for permit to drill (APDs). To address the growing Federal CBM drainage situation in the Wyodak area, BLM initiated a Drainage EA in March, which will be available for public review in November with a decision due in January, 2001. Currently, the BLM Buffalo Field Office has imposed a moratorium on approving any APDs for Federal wells within the Wyodak area until the completion of the Drainage EA. Certain CBM APDs for exploration outside of the Wyodak area and APDs for conventional wells are still being processed.

In the next 120 days:

The BLM should receive a Biological Opinion from the Fish and Wildlife Service for the Wyodak Area. The BLM Buffalo Field Office will prepare a Biological Assessment for the Drainage EA. There will be public comment on the Drainage EA and Decision Record.

For more information:

Wyoming State Director Al Pierson (307-775-6001)

Appendices

Lists of other pertinent publications, line officers, upcoming events, rulemaking activity, legislation, litigation, reports from the Government Accounting Office and Office of the Inspector General, and BLM internal working groups.

Appendix A
Additional BLM Publications

The following additional publications can be found on the BLM's internet site at www.blm.gov/publications or its intranet site web.blm.gov/120days under Appendices.

- **Strategic Plan**
  A document that charts the overall direction of the BLM. Organized around three goal categories which contain eight mission goals, the plan describes accomplishments expected under assumed level-budget scenarios in the BLM's various programs, through 2005. The goal categories focus on serving current and future publics, restoring and maintaining the health of the land, and improving organizational effectiveness.

- **Annual Performance Plan and Report**
  This Plan links with the Strategic Plan and presents the BLM's goals and goal measures. It identifies the fiscal year 2001 strategies and resources needed to achieve those goals, and reports 1999 performance accomplishments.

- **Public Rewards from Public Lands**
  This publication contains information, State-by-State, about what the BLM-managed public lands are worth—in economic, social, and environmental terms. The BLM historically brings more money each year into the general U.S. Treasury than it costs to operate . Only the IRS, Minerals Management Service, and U.S. Customs Service send more money to the general Treasury than the BLM. Public Rewards tells that story.
  - 2000 - Publication in mid November.
  - 1999 - On Internet now

- **Budget Justifications**
  The 2001 Budget Justifications tie the request for funding to the BLM's Strategic Plan and Annual Performance Plan.

- **Annual Report (CFO's)**
  This 1999 Annual Report is BLM's annual financial accomplishment list. This report also contains the Agency financial position, net cost of operations, changes in net position, budgetary resources, and details regarding financing of the BLM, as required by the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990.

- **National Assessment Prototype**
  The National Assessment Prototype is the BLM's effort to develop a systematic assessment of land health and resource use on the public lands. This is the BLM's first attempt to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for systematic resource assessment on the public lands.

- **Public Land Statistics 1999**
  The one location for most of the acreage figures for BLM public land management. This document is updated annually and includes land acres, revenue, horse numbers, fire acres, recreation use, and other valuable information.

- **Potential Agency Process Presentations**
  BLM staff would like to provide more in-depth briefings on BLM processes whenever necessary. These processes deal with complex issues and procedures beyond the scope of this guide. These processes include:
    - Budget
    - Legislation
    - Planning
    - Personnel
    - Regulations
    - Strategic Plan

Appendix B
List of Line Officers for the BLM

Washington Office

Thomas Fry, III, Director **(202) 208-3801**
- Special Assistant to the Director, Denise Ryan
- Special Assistant to the Director, Gregory Evans
- Special Assistant to the Director, Ann Rowan

Nina Rose Hatfield, Deputy Director **(202) 208-3801**
- Special Assistant to the Deputy Director, Twinkle Thompson
- Special Assistant to the Deputy Director, Kit Muller

Elaine Marquis-Brong, Director, National Landscape Conservation Systems Office **(202) 208-3516**
- Group Manager, Monument and Natural Resources Areas Group, (vacant)
- Group Manager, Wilderness, Rivers and Trails Group, (vacant)

Larry Hamilton, Director, National Wildland Fire Policy and Aviation (Boise, ID) **(208) 387- 5447**
- Deputy Director, Timothy Murphy

Henri Bisson, Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning (WO-200) **(202) 208- 4896**
- Deputy Assistant Director, Elena Daly
- Deputy Assistant Director, Special Projects, Sheryl Barnett
- Group Manager, Planning, Assessment & Community Support Group, Ann Aldrich
- Group Manager, Rangeland, Soils and Water Group, Timothy Hartzell
- Group Manager, Fish, Wildlife & Forest Group, Christine Jauhola
- Group Manager, Cultural Heritage, Wilderness & Special Areas Paleontology Group, Marilyn Nickels
- Group Manager, Recreation Group, Rodger Schmitt
- Group Manager, Wild Horse & Burro Group, Leroy Delaney
- National Science & Technology Center (Lakewood, CO), Roland Barkow

Pete Culp, Assistant Director, Minerals, Realty and Resource Protection (WO-300) **(202) 208-4201**
- Deputy Assistant Director, Robert Anderson
- Group Manager, Fluid Minerals Group, (vacant)
- Group Manager, Solid Minerals Group, Brenda Aird
- Group Manager, Land & Realty Group, Ray Brady
- Group Manager, Protection and Response Group, Bernard Hyde
- Project Manager, Land & Resources Project Office (Lakewood, CO), Leslie Cone
- National Law Enforcement Office (Boise, ID), Walter Johnson (Chief)

Hord Tipton, Assistant Director,
Information Resource Management (WO-500) **(202) 208- 7701**
Deputy Assistant Director, Timothy Foley (acting)
Group Manager, IRM Investment Group, Joseph Chesser (acting)
Group Manager, IRM Policy and Records Group, Larry Money
WO IT Services Supervisor, Mathew Stewart (acting)
Systems Development Manager, Systems Coordination Group (Lakewood, CO), John Foster (acting)
National IRM Center (Lakewood, CO), Scott MacPherson (Director)

Lawrence Finfer, Assistant Director,
Office of Communications (WO-600) **(202) 208- 6913**
Deputy Assistant Director, Bob Johns
Group Manager, Public Affairs Group, Celia Boddington
Group Manager, Legislative Affairs Group, Nancy Smith
Group Manager, Regulatory Affairs Group, Michael Schwartz
Group Manager, Intergovernmental Affairs Group, Karen Slater
Group Manager, Environmental Education & Volunteers Group, Mary Tisdale

Warren Johnson, Jr., Assistant Director,
Human Resources Management (WO-700) **(202) 501-6723**
Deputy Assistant Director, (vacant)
Group Manager, Executive Services & Initiatives Group, Concetta Stewart
Group Manager, Equal Employment Opportunity Group, Gloria Inniss
National Human Resources Management Center (Lakewood, CO), Linda Sedbrook (Director)
National Training Center (Phoenix, AZ), Marilyn Johnson (Director)

Robert Doyle, Assistant Director,
Business & Fiscal Resources (WO-800) **(202) 208- 4864**
Deputy Assistant Director, Thomas Walker
Deputy Assistant Director, Special Projects, Roger Hildebeidel
Group Manager, Management System Group, Janine Valasco
Group Manager, Property, Acquisition Management & Headquarters Services, Joseph Federline
Group Manager, Budget Group, Lawrence Benna
National Business Center (Lakewood, CO), Dennis Sykes (Director)

State Offices

Francis Cherry, State Director, Alaska **(907) 271-5080**
Associate State Director, Linda Rundell
Field Manager, Northern Field Office, Robert Schneider
Field Manager, Anchorage Field Office, Nicholas Douglas
Glennallen Field Office, Rotating Team Leader

Denise Meridith, State Director, Arizona **(602) 417-9500**
Associate State Director, (Vacant)
Field Manager, Arizona Strip Field Office, Roger Taylor
Field Manager, Phoenix Field Office, Michael Taylor
Field Manager, Kingsman Field Office, John Christensen
Field Manager, Safford Field Office, William Civish
Field Manager, Yuma Field Office, W. Gail Acheson
Field Manager, Tuscon Field Office, Jesse Juen
Field Manager, Lake Havasu Field Office, Donald Ellsworth

Michael Pool, State Director, California **(916) 978-4600**
Associate State Director, (Vacant)
Field Manager, Bakersfield Field Office, Ronald Fellows
Field Manager, Bishop Field Office, J. Steve Addington
Field Manager, Folsom Field Office, Deane Swickard
Field Manager, Hollister Field Office, Robert Beehler
Field Manager, Alturas Field Office, Timothy Burke
Field Manager, Arcata Field Office, Lynda Roush
Field Manager, Ukiah Field Office, Richard Burns
Field Manager, Eagle Lake Field Office, Linda Hansen
Field Manager, Redding Field Office, Charles Schultz
Field Manager, Surprise Field Office, Susan Stokke
District Manager, California Desert District Office, Timothy Salt
Field Manager, Ridgecrest Field Office, Hector Villalobos
Field Manager, El Centro Field Office, Gregory Thomsen
Field Manager, Barstow Field Office, Timothy Read
Field Manager, Needles Field Office, Molly Brady
Field Manager, Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, James Kenna

Ann Morgan, State Director, Colorado **(303) 239-3700**
Associate State Director, (Vacant)
Field Manager, Little Snake Field Office, John Husband
Field Manager, White River Field Office, John Mehlhoff
Area Manager, Kremmling Field Office, Linda Gross
Field Manager, Grand Junction Field Office, Catherine Robertson
Field Manager, Glenwood Springs Field Office, Anne Huebner
Field Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office, Allan Belt
Field Manager, Gunnison Field Office, Barry Tollefson
Associate Field Office Manager, San Juan Field Office, Kent Hoffman
Associate Field Manager, Royal Gorge Field Office, Levi Deike

Gayle Gordon, State Director, Eastern States **(703) 440-1700**
Associate State Director, Michael Nedd
Field Manager, Jackson Field Office, Bruce Dawson
Field Manager, Milwaukee Field Office, James Dryden

Martha Hahn, State Director, Idaho **(208) 373-4001**
Associate State Director, (Vacant)
District Manager, Upper Snake River District, James May
Field Manager, Idaho Falls Field Office, Joseph Kraayenbrink
Field Manager, Pocatello Field Office, Jeff Steele
Field Manager, Shoshone Field Office, Bill Baker
Field Manager, Burley Field Office, Theresa Hanley
District Manager, Upper Columbia-Salmon/Clearwater District, Fritz Rennebaum
Field Manager, Challis Field Office, Renee Snyder
Field Manager, Salmon Field Office, David Krosting
Field Manager, Coeur D'Alene Field Office, Eric Thomson
Field Manager, Cottonwood Field Office, Gregory Yuncevich
District Manager, Lower Snake River District, Katherine Kitchell
Field Manager, Four Rivers Field Office, Daryl Albiston
Field Manager, Owyhee Field Office, Jenna Whitlock
Field Manager, Jarbidge Field Office, Eddie Guerrero

Mathew Millenbach, State Director, Montana **(406) 896-5012**
Associate State Director, Roberta Moltzen
Field Manager, Billings Field Office, Sandra Brooks
Field Manager, Miles City Field Office, (vacant)
Field Manager, North Dakota Field Office, Douglas Burger
Field Manager, South Dakota Field Office, Patrick Gubbins
Field Manager, Dillon Field Office, Everett Powers
Field Manager, Lewistown Field Office, David Mari
Field Manager, Butte Field Office, Richard Hotaling
Field Manager, Malta Field Office, Bruce Reed
Field Manager, Missoula Field Office, Nancy Anderson

Robert Abbey, State Director, Nevada **(775) 861-6590**
Associate State Director, Jean Rivers-Council
Field Manager, Elko Field Office, Helen Hankins
Field Manager, Winnemucca Field Office, Terry Reed
Field Manager, Carson City Field Office, John Singlaub
Field Manager, Ely Field Office, Gene Kolkman
Field Manager, Las Vegas Field Office, Mark Morse
Field Manager, Battle Mountain Field Office, Gerald Smith

Michelle Chávez, State Director, New Mexico **(505) 438-7501**
Associate State Director, Richard Whitley
Field Manager, Albuquerque Field Office, Edwin Singleton
Field Manager, Taos Field Office, Ronald Huntsinger
Field Manager, Las Cruces Field Office, Amy Lueders
Field Manager, Tulsa Field Office, James Sims
Field Manager, Soccorro Field Office, Kate Padilla
Field Manager, Roswell Field Office, Edwin Roberson
Field Manager, Farmington Field Office, Lee Otteni
Field Manager, Carlsbad Field Office, Leslie Theiss
Field Manager, Amarillo Field Office, Timothy Spisak

Elaine Zielinski, State Director, Oregon **(503) 952-6024**
Associate State Director, Chuck Wassinger
District Manager, Lakeview District, Steven Ellis
Field Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area, Teresa Raml
Field Manager, Lakeview Resource Area, Scott Florence
District Manager, Burns District, Thomas Dyer
Field Manager, Three Rivers Resource Area, Craig Hansen
Field Manager, Andrews Resource Area, Miles Brown
District Manager, Vale District, (vacant)
Field Manager, Malheur Resource Area, Roy Masinton
Field Manager, Baker Resource Area, Penelope Woods
Field Manager, Jordan Resource Area, Jerry Taylor
District Manager, Prineville District, Alan Bail
Field Manager, Central Oregon Resource Area, Christina Welch
Field Manager, Deschutes Resource Area, Robert Towne
District Manager, Salem District, Denis Williamson
Field Manager, Cascades Resource Area, Scott Abdon
Field Manager, Marys Peak Resource Area, John Bacho
Field Manager, Tillamook Resource Area, Dana Shuford
District Manager, Eugene District, Julia Dougan
Field Manager, Coast Range Resource Area, Dan Howells
Field Manager, South Valley Resource Area, Steven Calish
Field Manager, McKenzie Resource Area, Emily Rice
District Manager, Roseburg District, Cary Osterhaus
Field Manager, Swiftwater Resource Area, Jay Carlson
Field Manager, South River Resource Area, Ernest Fielder
District Manager, Medford District, Ronald Wenker
Field Manager Butte Falls Resource Area, Lance Nimmo
Field Manager, Ashland Resource Area, Richard Drehobl
Field Manager, Grants Pass Resource Area, Robert Korfhage
Field Manager, Glendale Resource Area, Lynda Boody
District Manager, Coos Bay District, Sue Richardson
Field Manager, Umpqua Resource Area, Steven Fowler
Field Manager, Myrtlewood Resource Area, Karla Bird
District Manager, Spokane District, Joseph Buesing
Field Manager, Wenatchee Resource Area, James Fisher
Field Manager, Border Resource Area, (vacant)

Sally Wisely, State Director, Utah **(801) 539-4010**
Associate State Director, Robert Bennett
Field Manager, Fillmore Field Office, Rowley Freeman
Field Manager, Salt Lake City Field Office, Glenn Carpenter
District Manager, Cedar City District, Jerry Meredith
Field Manager, Cedar City Field Office, Arthur Tait
Field Manager, St. George Field Office, James Crisp
Field Manager, Kenab Field Office, Verlin Smith
Field Manager, Richfield Field Office, Jerry Goodman
Field Manager, Moab Field Office, Margaret Wyatt
Field Manager, Price Field Office, Richard Manus
Field Manager, Vernal Field Office, David Howell
Field Manager, Monticello Field Office, Walter Kent
Monument Manager, Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, Catherine Cannon

Alan Pierson, State Director, Wyoming **(307) 775-6001**
Associate State Director, Alan Kesterke
Field Manager, Worland Field Office, Darrell Barnes
Field Manager, Cody Field Office, Michael Blymyer
District Manager, Rawlins Field Office, Kurt Kotter
Field Manager, Rock Springs Field Office, John McKee
Field Manager, Lander Field Office, Jack Kelly
Field Manager, Casper Field Office, James Murkin
Field Manager, Buffalo Field Office, Dennis Stenger
Field Manager, Newcastle Field Office, William Hill
Field Manager, Kemmerer Field Office, Jeffrey Rawson
Field Manager, Pinedale Field Office, Priscilla Mecham

Appendix C
120 Day Calendar

November 2000

13	Public comment period closes on a proposed rule revising current regulations in 43 CFR 3600, which regulate how the BLM disposes of mineral materials from public lands.
14-16	Rangeland Management Conference, Lander, WY
15-Dec 15	Public and field offices review/comment on draft national off-highway vehicle strategy
20	Earliest date that BLM can issue its final, revised "3809" surface mining regulations. The BLM plans to issue regulations before the end of the year, but no earlier than 30 days after it published a final environmental impact statement (October 20).
27-Dec 1	Fire Conference 2000 in San Diego, California.
28 -29	HRM Business Plan meeting, Phoenix, AZ
29-30	Budget Strategy Team meeting to finalize fiscal year 2001 annual work plan.
30	Secretary Babbitt, Assistant Secretary Baca, and Director Fry participate in satellite conference with BLM Resource Advisory Council member nationwide regarding Councils' accomplishments, lessons learned, and next steps.
30	BLM satellite broadcast to RAC members regarding national off-highway vehicle strategy

December 2000

8	Issue the 2001 annual work plan
11	DOI Appropriations Reporting: Deadline for Departments of Interior and Agriculture to jointly publish in the Federal Register a list of all urban wildland interface communities within the vicinity of Federal lands that are at high risk from wildfire (where hazardous fuel reduction treatments are ongoing, and where treatments must begin in FY 2001).
11	DOI Appropriations Reporting: Deadline for Departments to report to Congress the decision to develop any expedited agency procedures or adopt or recommend any other measures.
11 week	BLM Executive Leadership Team (Director, ADs, State Directors) meeting, Washington, DC

13 (or 16)	California Coastal National Monument dedication
15 (apprx)	Public and field offices review/comment closes on draft national off-highway vehicle strategy
—	BLM to publish final regulations regarding rights of way cost recovery. Existing regulations are out of date. Final regulations will update the costs the BLM receives for processing rights of way. The regulations, found in 43 CFR 2800, will update the costs BLM receives and help the agency provide better customer service.
—	Solicitor's opinion expected on definitions of the Baca Bill / Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (PL 106-248). The law allows the BLM to retain receipts from public land sales, which will be used to cover administrative costs and acquire properties to improve the nation's land management pattern of ownership.

January 2001

8	107th session of the U.S. Congress begins, but adjourns until January 23.
11	DOI Appropriations Reporting: Deadline for Interior/Agriculture to provide financial plan and an action plan to House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and the Resources Committee of the House and the Energy and Natural Resources Committee in the Senate.
12	Review of first quarter spending and performance
16 week	Issue national off-highway vehicle strategy to BLM field offices
20	Inauguration Day
23	U.S. Congress goes back into session.
29-Feb 2	BLM Human Resources and Equal Employment Opportunity Annual Conference, Phoenix, AZ

February 2001

—	Review of FY2000 performance, 2002 Annual Performance Plan and 2000 Performance Report to Congress
—	Call for Nominations to fill approximately one-third of the membership of each Resource Advisory Council is normally issued in February or March, to fill expiring members' terms

Appendix D
Recent Rulemaking

More information – Larry Finfer, AD-600 (202) 208-6913

43 CFR 3809
Surface Management—Supplemental Proposed Rule

- Final 3809 Environmental Impact Statement on the internet October 16, 2000.
- The proposed rule would require bonds for all notice- and plan-level mining operations. BLM proposes to revise its regulations governing mining operations involving metallic and some other minerals on public lands administered by BLM. BLM is revising the regulations to improve the clarity and organization; address technical advances in mining; incorporate policies developed after the previous regulations were promulgated; and better protect natural resources and the nation's natural heritage lands from the adverse impacts of mining. The regulations are intended to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of BLM-administered lands by mining operations authorized bythe mining laws.
- The 2001 Interior Appropriations Act included a rider that limits the scope of 3809 regulations. The rider does not confine the BLM's regulations to the recommendations in the report by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) on hardrock mining on Federal lands. Instead, the conference language says the regulations are to be "not inconsistent with" the NAS recommendations.

43 CFR 3100 et al
Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Operations

- The proposed rule would revise BLM's current Federal oil and gas leasing and operations regulations, except those concerning drainage, combined hydrocarbon leasing, and oil and gas leasing in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.
- A notice extending the comment period for 45 days was published in the Federal Register on June 1, 1999. The proposed rule was published in the Federal Register on December 3, 1998.

43 CFR 2930 and 8370
Permits for Recreation on Public Lands

- On July 17, 2000, the public comment period closed for the proposed rule.
- The proposed rule would revise the recreation permit regulations
- It would cover special recreation permits for commercial and competitive events and for outfitters and guides; recreational use of special management areas, and recreation use permits for public use of the fee facilities such as campgrounds.
- Major changes in the proposed rule would include: a provision for cost reimbursement based upon the amount of administrative time BLM will need to process special recreation permit applications; removal of the 50-vehicle upper limit for events as to which BLM may have waive permit and fee requirements; clarification of BLM's intent that fee waivers can be allowed on a case-by-case basis for academic, scientific, and research uses that have a recreational element; and new regulations covering the procedures for obtaining recreation use permits for fee areas.

43 CFR 6300 and 8560 - Wilderness Management

- On September 14, 2000, the BLM received additional comments from SOL on the regulatory text.
- The draft final rule reserves for future publication provisions on the use of rock anchors, pending completion of a Forest Service rulemaking on the project. The final rule would update the wilderness management regulations. The proposed rule was published in the Federal Register on December 19, 1996. The extended comment period to the proposed rule closed on April 21, 1997 (total comment period of 120 days). About 1,500 comments were received on the proposed rule, mostly from rock climbers opposed to limit on rock anchors, and law enforcement aspects.

43 CFR 2800 and 2880
Rights-of-Way, Principles and Procedures

- Extension of Comment Period. Personnel met in Shepherdstown, WV, on November 15-18, 1999, to review comments on the proposed rule; begin preparing a final rule; begin to draft an implementation plan; prepare internal guidance; and prepare training to implement the regulatory changes. The groups outlined the issues to be addressed and made preliminary assignments. The initial comment period closed on October 13, 1999.
- The final rule would: increase processing and monitoring fees to better reflect actual processing and monitoring costs; allow processing and monitoring fees to increase as inflation increase; establish a fee for the late payment of rents, clarify policies and procedures concerning rents for communication site rights-of-way; eliminate automatic exemptions from cost recovery for federal agencies; and reorganize the regulations to reflect the sequence in which BLM takes action on applications.
- Also see Rights-of-Way, page 20.

Appendix E
Recent Legislation

P.L. 106-191 Sodium Acreage Increase

This Act doubles the maximum allowable acreage for Federal sodium (trona) leases held by a firm in a state. The acreage limitation for trona leases had been in place since 1948, and was the oldest acreage limitation in the Mineral Leasing Act. The sodium lease acreage limitation was increased from 15,360 acres per State to 30,720 acres per state. The existing trona mines will now be able to extend their mining operations and allow them to make long term business decisions. The amending of the Mineral Leasing Act to increase the acreage limitation for Federal sodium will require BLM to review all existing leases and make adjustments accordingly.

P.L. 106-206 Commercial Filming on Federal Lands

This bill addresses the issue of filming on public lands under the jurisdiction of BLM, NPS, and FWS, and allows the agencies to charge and retain both cost recovery and rental fees for the use of public lands for filming. Previously, the BLM was allowed to charge such film rental fees, but fees returned to the Treasury (both NPS and FWS were restricted from charging any rental fees). The bill retains fees on site, in a manner similar to the Rec Fee Demonstration program. The Administration supported H.R. 154, and it was signed into law on May 26, 2000. The Department is working on new regulations at this time.

P.L. 106-248 Valles Caldera Preservation Act (Baca)

Authorizes the U.S. Forest Service to purchase the 95,000-acre Baca Ranch (Title I) and allows the BLM to sell lands identified for disposal and retain the monies for purchasing inholdings from willing sellers (Title II). The bill also directs the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to establish a priority for acquisition of inholdings, giving added weight to those that have existed as inholdings for the longest time and to those properties that have exceptional resources or where acquisition would improve management efficiency. The BLM is working toward a speedy implementation of the Act this Fall with sales next Spring.

P.L. 106-257 Oregon Assembled Land Exchange Act

The bill involves the exchange of over 160,000 acres in various Oregon counties. The BLM would transfer 90,000 acres of isolated public lands and acquire 70,000 acres of private land with significant natural resource values, thereby creating an improved land ownership and management pattern in Northeast Oregon. Oregon State Office is working on the implementation of action items.

P.L. 106-301 Utah West Desert Land Exchange Act

This bill ratifies a recently negotiated land exchange agreement between the Department of the Interior and the State of Utah that addresses long-standing issues of State-owned inholdings within sensitive areas of public land ownership in the West Desert of Utah, including critical habitats and areas being considered for wilderness designation. The Act was signed by the President on October 13. The BLM and the State of Utah need to prepare statements of value and select an independent appraiser, complete conveyances within 70 days of approximate equal value determination, and provide maps for public inspection.

P.L. 106-351, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument
The Act creates a BLM-managed National Monument with over 150,000 acres of Federal land in the mountains near Palm Springs, California.

P.L. 106-353 Colorado Canyons NCA
The Act creates a 122,000 acre NCA and within it a 75,000 acre Wilderness Area in western Colorado outside of Grand Junction, Colorado (5,000 acres of the both the NCA and Wilderness area are in Utah).

P.L. 106-362, Ivanpah Valley Airport Public Land Transfer Act
The Act allows for a 6,650 acre land transfer between the BLM and the Clark County, Nevada, Department of Aviation. The transfer allows Clark County to construct a commercial airport on this land, which is located in the Ivanpah Valley. BLM will be processing the land transfer to Clark County following appraisals.

P.L. 106-393, Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act
This Act provides annual payments to the States and counties from lands managed by the Forest Service, and the revested Oregon and California Railroad and reconveyed Coos Bay Wagon Road grant lands managed by BLM. The funds would be used by the counties in which the lands are situated to benefit schools, roads, emergency, and other public purposes. They also provide new mechanisms for cooperation between the counties, the Forest Service and BLM to make necessary investments in Federal lands. The BLM will address the issues related to implementation of this bill: how to avoid delays to making payments beyond the first day of the new fiscal year; a solicitor opinion may be needed to clarify how to adjust annual payments using a non-existent "rural" consumer price index; and coordination with the Forest Service is needed to meet the advisory committees requirement in the bill and in Interior Appropriations.

P.L. 106-399, Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area
The Act creates a 425,000 acre "cooperative management and protection area" and a 155,000 acres wilderness area in southeastern Oregon with a larger nearly 1 million acre mineral withdrawal area. Signed by the President 10/30/00.

P.L. 106-XXX, Las Cienegas National Conservation Area
Sponsored by Cong. Jim Kolbe (R-5-AZ) in the House and Senator John McCain (R-AZ) in the Senate, the bill as passed by the House would create a 42,000 acre NCA southeast of Tucson with a larger 142,000 acre acquisition district. The House and Senate passed H.R. 2941, pending President signature.

Conservation and Reinvestment Act HR 701 (CARA)

This bill would dedicate revenues from Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas sales and production for impact aid to coastal states, bolster Federal and State conservation through land acquisition, provide for numerous conservation programs, and fully fund Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT). H.R. 701 passed the House on May 11, 2000 and the Senate Energy Committee on July 25, 2000. Appropriators succeeded in passing an alternative to CARA in Title VIII of FY2001 Interior Appropriations: Land Conservation, Preservation and Infrastucture Improvement (LCPII). LCPII and CARA differ most of all in how money would be provided. LCPII requires annual appropriations while CARA would guarantee $3 billion annually, subject to a trigger mechanism. Proponents of CARA promised to fight for H.R. 701 next year. In addition to tracking continuing activities by CARA proponents, BLM will need to assemble action plans that include: a lists of proposed acquisitions to be provided to Senate and House Appropriations Committees, identification of deferred maintenance priorities, adjustments for increased PILT payments to States, and evaluation of potential BLM cooperation with other funded programs.

Black Rock Desert/High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails NCA, S. 2273

Sponsored by Senator Bryan (D-NV), this bill would create a nearly 800,000 acre NCA and 10 wilderness areas totally nearly750,000 acres (much of the wilderness is outside the NCA). The Senate passed S. 2273 by unanimous consent on 10/5 and the bill was sent to the House. The bill is now pending House action.

Wildland Firefighters Pay Equity Act H.R. 2814

Sponsored by Representative Richard Pombo R-CA, the act amends chapter 55 of title 5, United States Code, to authorize equal overtime pay provisions for all Federal employees engaged in wildland fire suppression operations was introduced September 8, 1999. The bill would provide a waiver from the Fair Labor Standards Act (FSLA) to exempt Federal wildland firefighters from the current pay ceiling, capped at GS-10, step 1 level. Passed House on October 23, 2000. The companion bill, S. 1498 (Senator Conrad Burns, R-MT), was introduced August 4, 1999 and is still pending.

Mandatory Separation Age Parity for Federal Firefighters H.R. 460

Sponsored by Representative Elton Gallegly, R-CA, the bil was agreed to on October 17, 2000 in the House. The bill amends title 5 of the United States Code to provide that the mandatory separation age for Federal firefighters be made the same as the age that applies with respect to Federal Law Enforcement officers. The Department does not have a position on the bill, having raised only minor concerns. The companion bill, S. 3178 (Senator Dianne Feinstein, D-CA) was introduced in the Senate on October 6, 2000.

University of Alaska Land Grant S. 744 & H.R. 2958:

These companion bills would authorize the University of Alaska to select 250,000 acres of Federal lands (from BLM and Forest Service), and an additional 250,000 acres if matched by the State of Alaska, to compensate the university for supposedly deficient prior land grants. The bills place some limits on selections within Tongass National Forest and proposes a complicated royalty stream sharing process for the NPRA. The Administration opposes both bills. S. 744 passed the Senate Energy Committee on June 2, 1999, and awaits Senate floor action. H.R. 2958 passed the House Resources Committee on July 19, 2000, and awaits House floor action.

Coal Market Competition Act S. 2300

Increases the amount of Federal acreage that can be held by a coal lessee in a single state from 46,080 acres to 75,000 acres and would raise the national acreage limit from 100,000 to 150,000 acres. An increase in the acreage limitation will not encourage speculation or create a monopoly in the domestic coal industry. On October 23 the bill passed the House and was forwarded to the President for signature.

Appendix F
Recent Litigation

Endangered Species Litigation

Defenders of Wildlife v. Babbitt, Civ. No. 99-0297.

The case was filed against 13 Federal defendants and involves challenges under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) for failure to protect and restore the Sonoran pronghorn and its habitat in southwest Arizona. Plaintiffs request the court to direct the preparation by defendants of an Environmental Impact Statement concerning the cumulative impacts of their activities on the pronghorn. They seek an injunction requiring "lawful" consultation under the ESA asserting that the defendants have failed to consider "cumulative" impacts. At issue for the BLM are four grazing allotments. In addition to challenges to the biological opinions, plaintiffs assert that the BLM failed to consider cumulative impacts in its NEPA documentation. No date has been set for oral arguments on pending motions for summary judgment.

Pacific Coast Fisherman's Federation v. National Marine Fisheries Service (U.S. District Court for Western Washington).

Plaintiffs claim that the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) biological opinions on BLM and Forest Service actions in the range of the Umpqua Cutthroat Trout in western Oregon are inconsistent with the Aquatic Conservation Strategies (ACS) contained in the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP). The court found that the biological opinions did not adequately document the projects' consistency with the ACS. The ruling invalidated several biological opinions causing delay of both ongoing and planned BLM activities. The Department of Justice appealed the ruling on June 8, 2000. On October 14, 2000, the plaintiffs filed another complaint and request for temporary injunction, seeking an expansion of the ruling to the entire 24 million acres covered by the NFP. Oral arguments are scheduled for early November.

Center for Biodiversity, Sierra Club and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility

These groups have sued California BLM on failure to complete section 7 Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation on the California Desert Plan for newly listed species. Intervener status has been granted to representatives from the off-highway vehicle (OHV) community. Two stipulations have now been agreed to by the defendants and the plaintiffs. The first sets an expedited schedule for completion of the consultations required under the ESA. The second involves the closure to OHVs of 48,000 acres of the estimated 133,000-acre Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area to protect the threatened Peirson's milkvetch. The second stipulation agreement has been challenged by the interveners. California BLM estimates total cost of the settlement agreement will be $5,000,000 over several years.

California Desert Conservation Area - Endangered Species Act Litigation

The Center for Biodiversity (Center) is suing the California BLM for failure to complete section 7 Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultations on existing land-use plans. The Center's Notice listed the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan and 18 others for which the BLM is vulnerable under the Pacific Rivers Council v. Thomas ruling of the Ninth Circuit Court. On March 16, 2000, the Center filed suit against the BLM for not conducting a comprehensive consultation on the CDCA Plan. Additional lawsuits could be filed on most of the other plans at any time because the BLM does not have current biological opinions. The BLM has two biological opinions that need to be updated, has initiated consultation with FWS on two others, and is working on the consultation packages needed to initiate formal consultation for most of the remaining plans.

Recent filing against U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The BLM has not yet received a copy of the complaint. The Solicitor's Office reports that plaintiffs challenge the adequacy of the biological opinions issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for activities affecting the Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) in the Pacific Northwest. If plaintiffs prevail, all BLM and Forest Service activities that affect the NSO may be delayed while the baseline data is collected.

Energy and Mineral Litigation

Montana Wilderness Association v. Tom Fry, et al. (CV-00-039-GF-PGH).

This lawsuit claims that the BLM did not comply with the National Environmental Policy Act or the Endangered Species Act when it issued seven oil and gas leases and a right-of-way for an oil and gas pipeline in November, 1999 in Montana. On October 26, 2000, a pre-trial conference was held, during which the Plaintiffs indicated they wanted to amend their original complaint. They believe that the BLM also violated the National Historical Preservation Act. The Montana Wilderness Association (MWA) will submit a Motion for Summary Judgment to the Court, after which BLM will have 30 days to respond. The MWA will have another ten days to answer the BLM's response. In the meantime, various proposals and counter-proposals have been made by the parties and negotiations are ongoing.

San Juan Citizens Alliance v. Babbitt, Civ. No. 00-S-379 (D. Colo.).

On February 18, 2000, the San Juan Citizens Alliance filed an action seeking to prevent any further coal bed methane wells in the northern portion of the San Juan Basin until the BLM has prepared an adequate Environmental Impact Statement. The plaintiffs claim that existing BLM and Bureau of Indian Affairs leasing and development planning documents for both Federal and Southern Ute Tribal lands in the San Juan Basin need revision or supplementation. A programmatic Environmental Impact Statement was begun in 1996 for oil and gas development on the Southern Ute Tribal Mineral lands and the Draft EIS will be published in November 2000. The BLM has filed two motions to dismiss the complaint.

Wyoming Outdoor Council v. Dombeck, U.S. Dist. Ct., Dist. of Columbia

Challenges oil and gas lease sale in Shoshone National Forest alleging that BLM and Forest Service cannot rely on Endangered Species Act consultation on the Grizzly Bear that occurred at the land use planning stage. BLM rejected bids and argues that case is moot.

Devon Energy Corp. v. United States, Court of Fed. Claims

Takings and breach of contract claim based on BLM's denial of permits for vertical wells because of impact on future recovery of potash. Plaintiffs have filed a Summary Judgment motion seeking decision that denial of right to drill in a single spacing unit is a categorical taking, without regard to what was permitted on the balance of the spacing units in a lease. The government has proposed several drilling options which plaintiffs claim to be infeasible.

Central Pines Land Co. v. United States, 5th Circuit Court of Appeals

Quiet title action based on reservation of oil and gas rights in conveyance of lands for a National Forest and Army installation. Louisiana law generally provides that mineral rights expire if not used for a ten year period, but 1940 state statute maintains mineral reservations beneath federal lands in perpetuity. The District Court refused to apply the 1940 statute to deprive the Forest Service of its pre- enactment bargain, but held for plaintiffs against the Army's constitutional challenge to post- enactment application of the statute. The plaintiffs seek mediation while the Department of the Interior wants a decision on the legal issue.

United Mining v. Babbitt (ID)

Mandamus action asking the Court to order the Department of the Interior to grant United Mining's pending plan of operations. The action was amended to challenge the Secretary's decision regarding BSA's comparative value provisions.

Glamis Imperial Corp. v Babbitt (CA)

Facial challenge to the Interior Solicitor's opinion related to Glamis Imperial Corp.'s proposed gold mine in Imperial County, California.

Teck Resouces Inc, v Babbitt (CO)

MPA case asking for mandamus to force SOI to continue processing three patent applications in Colorado.

Forest Management Litigation

Northwest Forestry Association v. Fry, Civ. No 94-1031 (U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia).

Plaintiffs claim that the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP) violates the Oregon and California Act and that the NFP was created in violation of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. They seek to overturn the implementation of the NFP on BLM-Oregon and BLM-California timberlands in Oregon and California. Discovery has been delayed pending decision on the government's motion for summary judgment on procedural grounds. Oral arguments on this motion are scheduled for late November or early December 2000.

Northwest Forestry Association and Northwest Forest Resource Council et al. v. Fry, Babbitt et al. (Civ. No. 94-1031).

This is a challenge to the Northwest Forest Plan (NWP), which is pending in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia and seeks to re-litigate challenges to the plan which were decided in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Among the allegations are the failure to analyze the no-action alternative and reasonable alternatives under the National Environmental Policy Act, and the failure to include the public in the planning process as required by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act in the NWP. Discovery has been partially completed. The U.S. has filed a motion for summary judgment. Oral arguments have not been scheduled.

Land Use Planning Litigation

Gallatin Wildlife Association, National Wildlife Federation v. Scott Powers, Field Manager, BLM

On April 5, 2000, the Gallatin Wildlife Association and the National Wildlife Federation filed a complaint in the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana, Butte Division, alleging that the BLM failed to prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) and designate Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in violation of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Administrative Procedure Act. Settlement negotiations are ongoing, and a draft settlement agreement is currently under review. Included among the terms of the draft agreement is a provision that the BLM identify the Dillon RMP as a high priority for completion. The BLM intends to begin the RMP process in FY 2001. The parties agree to ask the court for a stay of the proceedings in the case until the BLM commences preparation of the Dillon RMP or the end of FY 2001, whichever occurs first.

Livestock Grazing Litigation

LU Ranching Co., Inc., Jeff Anderson Estate, Inc., and Michael F. Stanford v. Bruce Babbitt as the Secretary of the Interior - Civ. No. 00-285 (U. S. District Court for the District of Idaho).

Plaintiffs claim that the BLM failed to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and considered an inadequate array of alternatives. Plaintiffs also claim that the BLM violated FLPMA (inadequate coordination and consultation, obsolete data, and interference with vested property rights, including water), violation of due process (taking property rights), the Taylor Grazing Act and Administrative Procedure Act (taking of rights, including water, grazing preference, access and range improvements). No schedule for the hearing has been established.

Committee for Idaho's High Desert and Idaho Watersheds Project v. Daryl Albiston (BLM) - Civ. No. 00-168-S-LMB (U. S. District Court for the District of Idaho).

Plaintiffs claim that the BLM failed to comply with NEPA, citing a lack of cumulative impact analysis and claiming that an EIS was necessary. Plaintiffs also cite the BLM's failure to ensure that grazing will comply with the Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and allege that the BLM did not take appropriate action after determining livestock grazing was a significant factor for not achieving the Rangeland Health Standards. The case has not been heard.

Oregon Natural Desert Association v. Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior - CV00-687 HA (US District Court, District of Oregon).

Plaintiffs claim that the BLM failed to respond in a timely fashion to a petition for rulemaking to establish procedures that enable the Secretary to determine the specific parcels of land within grazing districts that are chiefly valuable for grazing and raising forage crops as required by the Taylor Grazing Act and Federal Land Policy and Management Act. The Department of the Interior is preparing a response.

Off Highway Vehicle Management Litigation

Central Oregon Forest Issues Committee, Oregon Natural Desert Association, and Oregon Natural Resources Council v. James G. Kenna, Deschutes Area Manager, Prineville, BLM, Civil No., 98-29-ST (U.S. Dist. Ct. for Dist. Of Oregon).

In 1997, the BLM completed an environmental assessment on an off-highway vehicle (OHV) management plan for Millican Valley. The court issued a final judgment on March 10, 2000, indicating that the environmental analysis did not include an adequate analysis of cumulative effects and therefore required an environmental impact statement (EIS). In addition to the EIS, the court required the BLM to close some existing ways within the Badlands Wilderness Study Area in order to allow continued OHV use in the Millican Valley. Plans for completing the EIS have not been finalized.

United States v. Garfield County and State of Utah (Burr Trail), Civil No. 2:96-CV-450J.

On February 13, 1996, Garfield County performed unauthorized road construction on a one-mile segment of the Burr Trail inside Capital Reef National Park. The United States sued Garfield County in May 1996, acknowledging the right-of-way in Capital Reef, but arguing that Park Service authorization was still required for construction on the right-of-way. On October 24, 2000, Judge Jenkins issued a strongly worded opinion to the effect that the county's action in blading the road "signified the naked exercise of power" by Garfield County at the expense of the federal government and that the action inside Capitol Reef National Park was in clear trespass. The court ordered the county to reimburse the Park Service over $6,000 for costs incurred in restoring the impacted area. Perhaps the point of greatest significance in this case is the court's statement that in the future the county must obtain NPS permission before conducting any road construction inside the park. This will clearly be a valuable precedent for the ongoing BLM consolidated "road wars" case, where BLM is arguing that it retains regulatory authority over valid R.S. 2477 rights-of-way.

Utah R.S. 2477 Rights-of-Way: Notice of Intention to File Suit

By letter of June 14, 2000, the Utah Attorney General provided notice to the Secretary of the Interior of an intent to sue the United States under the Quiet Title Act, 28 U.S.C. 2409a (QTA), asserting the state's interest in a large number of alleged roads throughout the state - on federal lands of all kinds (forests, parks, BLM lands, etc.) and on state and private lands. The roads were described in the notice simply by reference to a series of enclosed maps, showing the claims in red lines. The claims appear to cover virtually every road in the state, including urban subdivisions.

There is a substantial question as to whether this form of notice satisfies the particularity in pleading required under the QTA. The Department of Justice is not planning to contact the state until after a complaint is filed, presumably sometime in mid-December. The Department of Agriculture received a similar notice, dated after the notice sent to Interior.

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance v. BLM, et al., Civil No. 2:96-CV-0836C (D.Utah).

In the fall of 1996, San Juan, Garfield, and Kane counties bladed 16 "road" segments on BLM lands that the counties claimed were valid R.S. 2477 rights-of-way. SUWA sued San Juan County to enjoin it from doing any further road construction or blading, and joined BLM to require it to prevent such road work and to protect the public lands as required by FLPMA. The United States, in turn, filed a cross-claim against San Juan County and separate actions against Garfield County and Kane County, seeking a declaration of trespass, damages, and an injunction against any further blading of roads in this manner. The district court consolidated these actions. The United States originally argued that the counties' road work was unauthorized regardless of whether the counties hold R.S. 2477 rights-of-way over the areas where the work was performed. In October 1997, however, the court ruled that questions as to the validity and scope of the claimed rights-of-way were pivotal to the outcome of this lawsuit and that, when the validity of an R.S. 2477 right-of-way is challenged, BLM must first make a factual determination of the matter prior to the court's involvement. Accordingly, the United States filed a motion for, and the court granted, a stay to allow the BLM, to make such determinations. On July 7, 1999, BLM issued final determinations rejecting all ten routes claimed by Garfield and San Juan counties, and a single Kane County route in the Moquith Mountain Wilderness Study Area, finding in each case insufficient evidence that the route met the minimum criteria for establishing an R.S. 2477 right-of-way. On January 21, 2000, BLM issued final determinations rejecting four of the five remaining Kane County routes (located partially within BLM WSAs and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument). One route (Skutumpah Road) was found to present a valid R.S. 2477 claim, but the work performed by the county on that road was found to be outside the scope of the right-of-way. SUWA filed a motion for summary judgment on September 20, 2000, seeking to have the court affirm BLM's administration determinations, including confirmation that on Skutumpah Road, that its scope was less than the county's road work. SUWA also seeks a permanent injunction barring the counties from conducting any road work on these routes without first obtaining right-of-way grants from BLM under Title V of FLPMA and NEPA compliance.

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance V. Babbitt, Civ. No. 2:99 CV 852 K (In the United States District Court for the District Of Utah Central Division).

This case was filed in October of 1999. Plaintiffs allege that the BLM has failed to carry out its responsibilities under Executive Orders and regulations to minimize conflict and damage associated with off-highway vehicles' use on public lands in Utah. Areas of special concern raised by the plaintiffs are BLM Wilderness Study Areas, FLPMA 202 inventory areas, and citizen proposal areas. Interveners include Utah Shared Access Alliance, the State of Utah, the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration. San Juan, Emery, Wayne and Kane Counties have also joined the suit to protect R.S. 2477 rights. The Court has several motions before it, including a motion to dismiss filed by the interveners. Plaintiffs also assert that the BLM has failed to comply with planning and NEPA regulations. They argue BLM's land-use plans are dated and that the planning documents and NEPA documents do not reflect new conditions. A two-week trial is scheduled to begin on April 30, 2001.

Special Designation Litigation

Utah Association of Counties v. Clinton et. al. (D UT 2:97CV 0479B (Consolidated)) (Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument).

This case challenges the President's authority to create a 1.7 million acre national monument under the Antiquities Act. It also involves National Environmental Policy Act claims, Federal Land Policy Management Act claims and Administrative Procedures Act claims. There are also challenges to the Executive Branch's (Secretary of the Interior and Council on Environmental Quality) authority to participate in the planning and preparations for a new national monument. There are also allegations that because the Monument declaration was politically motivated it cannot be valid under any legal theory. The United States has filed two motions to dismiss. One deals with the merits of the lawsuit and the second argues that Congress ratified the Monument by issuing appropriations for three years and by adjusting the boundaries of the Monument and finally by passing legislation that exchanged state land inholdings within the Monument for a cash payment and other federal lands outside the Monument. The District Court has issued one decision denying the Motion to Dismiss for Congressional Ratification.

There are three other legal challenges to national monuments. Only one of which, Esplin v. Clinton, (CIV.00-0148PCT, D. AZ) which challenges the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument also involves the Department of the Interior. The others name only the President as a defendant or the U.S. Forest Service as defendants so DOI is not directly involved.

Water Rights Litigation

Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts, et al., v. United States Environmental Protection Agency, Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Agriculture, et al.

The case was filed on June 22, 1999, by a collection of interest groups and private individuals who seek to enjoin the implementation of the Clean Water Action Plan. The Government has filed a motion to dismiss the plaintiffs' claims, to which the plaintiffs have responded. The issues with respect to the motion to dismiss have been fully briefed by the parties. At present, the U.S. District Court has not requested or scheduled oral argument with respect to the motion to dismiss. The parties are awaiting the Court's decision on the government's motion to dismiss.

In the Supreme Court of the State of Nevada, No. 32740, United States of America, Appellant v. State Engineer, State of Nevada Respondent, on Appeal from the Ninth Judicial District of the State of Nevada, in and for the County of Douglas.

The Nevada Legislature passed Senate Bill 96 in 1995 to prohibit the State from issuing stock water rights to an applicant not legally entitled to place livestock on the public land. The Bureau of Land Management continued to file water rights claims for stock and other uses. The State Engineer denied nine BLM applications for stock water and other beneficial uses in Douglas County based solely on the provisions of Senate Bill 96. A lawsuit filed by the United States was upheld by the Nevada District Court. The case was appealed to the Nevada Supreme Court. Oral arguments before the Nevada Supreme Court were held September 14, 2000.

Snake River Basin Adjudication, Case No. 39576 (Decided October 27, 2000, Idaho Sup. Ct.)

The Idaho Supreme Court ruled against federal reserved water rights claims asserted by the Government on behalf of the Forest Service for National Forest wilderness areas within the Snake River watershed. The decision impacts other federal land managing agencies like the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service that also manage wilderness areas. The only remaining judicial review is by writ of certiorari to the United States Supreme Court. The Government has until January 25 2001 in which to seek Supreme Court review.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Litigation

Oregon Natural Desert Association v. Juan Palma (BLM), Civ. No. 98-97-RE.

This case, brought by four plaintiffs against the BLM and Secretary Babbitt, involves an injunction against livestock grazing in a designated Owyhee Wild and Scenic River corridor. The judge noted the lack of success that the BLM had achieved from 1992 to 1997 in working with the permittees and that the BLM and the permit holders had been "unable to agree on even short-term measures for the immediate protection of the many resource values found within the area known as the Deary Pasture." The judge determined that there was inadequate NEPA analysis and issued an injunction on November 18, 1999. The injunction was modified April 28, 2000, and the court retains jurisdiction until completion of an EIS. The modified injunction provided for construction of livestock management facilities to restrict cattle from certain areas of concern in the corridor.

Wilderness Litigation

State of Utah, Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, and Utah Association of Counties v. Babbitt, Civil No. 96-870-B (D.Utah).

This case concerns a 1996 decision of the Secretary of the Interior to convene a team of BLM employees to conduct an inventory of certain public lands managed by the BLM located in Utah. The Secretary directed BLM to view the lands to determine if they had wilderness characteristics and to prepare a report for the Secretary describing the team's observations. The Utah plaintiffs filed suit in district court challenging the Secretary's decision to conduct the inventory and later sought a preliminary injunction asserting that they were injured by Interior's failure to allow public participation in the inventory. The district court granted the injunction, barring BLM from continuing the inventory. In a unanimous decision dated March 3, 1998, the Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit vacated the injunction and remanded the case to the district court with instructions to dismiss all claims relating to the inventory because plaintiffs lacked standing to challenge the inventory. In January 1999, plaintiffs filed a second amended complaint in district court, asserting two causes of action: (1) Interior acted *ultra vires* in conducting the wilderness inventory; and (2) Interior has acted unlawfully by adopting an "interim protection policy" or "de facto wilderness management" standard on 2.5 million acres of public land in Utah. Plaintiffs are on record stating that discovery has been essentially completed in this case. We are considering our options to move to dismiss, move for summary judgment, or both.

Appendix G
Recent GAO / IG Reports

Status of General Accounting Office (GAO) Audits and Material Weaknesses and other Office of Inspector General (OIG) Evaluations

Material Weaknesses Defined:

When the findings of an external audit or internal evaluation are considered to pose a threat to program management and potentially violate regulations.

Presently, BLM has four issues considered to be material weaknesses requiring quarterly reporting on their status to the Department and Congress.

Inadequate Range Monitoring OIG 99-I-677:

A 1992 assessment of the Bureau's monitoring processes found that allotments are not being monitored consistently. As a result, grazing decisions were being delayed because of a lack of quality monitoring data, and many grazing decisions that were issued are not adequately documented with monitoring data. Status: The plan for dealing with the material weakness is to prioritize areas where major resource use conflicts occur or rangeland health standards are not being achieved.

Follow-up of Nevada Land Exchange Activities OIG 98-I-689:

In 1997, the BLM identified the Appraisal Program as a material weakness in response to concerns identified by the OIG in its 1996 audit report on Nevada Land Exchange Activity. In 1998, the BLM expanded the material weakness to include BLM's land exchange program in response to OIG in its 1998 follow-up audit report on Nevada Land Exchange Activity. Status: BLM is conducting a full program evaluation and is implementing several alternative solutions, focusing on placing quality controls in the land exchange process. BLM has revised the Land Exchange Handbook and continues to implement changes based on the revisions. Collaborations with the Forest Service have been introduced to improve consistency of appraisal and exchange practices and procedures.

Administration and Oversight of the Wild Horse and Burro Herd Management Program OIG 97-I 1104:

A 1997 evaluation of the implementation of the BLM's 1992 Strategic Plan for the Management of Wild Horses and Burros determined that progress has not been adequate to achieve appropriate management levels (AMLs). The evaluation focused on (1) revision of the 1992 Strategic Plan, (2) widespread application of the one-year immuno contraception vaccine and continued research for a multi year vaccine, and (3) implementation of recommendations from an adoption marketing strategy. Status: BLM has (1) conducted five internal program reviews; (2) rechartered the National Wild Horses and Burros Advisory Board in 1997 and reestablished the Board in 2000; (3) revised the Adoption Process Handbook and will soon incorporate recent changes for standardizing the adoption process by region; (4) adopted recommendations from a 1999 adoption marketing strategy and will award a contract in late 2000 or early 2001 for a more in-depth marketing study; (5) developed new policies relative to transportation, placement, euthanization and selective removal of animals, and competitive bid adoptions; (6) completed 57 of the 67 recommendations contained in the Culp and Pierson Reports; (7) developed a one year vaccine currently being used in a research context but approved by FDA for widespread management application; (8)

entered into MOUs with slaughter houses to eliminate untitled wild horses and burros from being slaughtered for consumption; and (9) developed a long-term strategy to attain AMLs in four to five years provided that adequate funding is available.

Supervisory oversight of the Safety Management Program:
In 1998, the BLM conducted an internal evaluation of its Safety Management Program. Significant weaknesses were identified as: (1) inconsistent budgeting at State Office level and lack of funding to support safety program at field office level, (2) safety staff buried in the organizational structure which hampers communication of safety issues, (3) inadequate training of safety personnel, and (4) general lack of supervisory accountability for the safety program. Status: The primary plan for dealing with this material weakness, is our effort to move the Bureau to a Risk Management environment. We have implemented a quarterly reporting requirement to ensure appropriate monitoring and tracking of this weakness. In addition, performance measures for each state will be developed and implemented.

IG/GAO Audits

OIG 99-I-677 Rangelands Improvement Program,
The OIG audit found that the funds allocated for rangeland improvements (RI) were not always spent according to stated purpose, the RI improvement projects were not regularly monitored to ensure proper reporting and BLM did not have scheduled inspections to ensure that projects were maintained properly. Status: BLM reviewed its allocation of funds for RI in 1999. To address reporting, BLM redesigned and rehoused the RIPS system and is training staff in its use. The RIPS system is expected to be implemented in 2001.

OIG 97-I-1104 Management of Herd Levels, Wild Horse and Burro Program
The OIG recommended that the BLM develop and implement a plan detailing methods and costs for achieving appropriate management levels for wild horses and burros on public lands. Status: In September 1999, the BLM developed a long-term removal strategy, Living Legends in Balance with the Land, for achieving appropriate management levels on all herd management areas over a four year period.

OIG 98-I-419 The Adopt-A-Horse Program:
The OIG evaluated whether BLM operates the Adopt-A Horse Program in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Status: In response to the audit, BLM completed program reviews for Southern California and Idaho in 1998; New Mexico, Eastern States, northern California, and Montana in 1999; and Utah, Colorado, and Oregon were scheduled for 2000 but not initiated. Nevada, Wyoming, and Arizona are scheduled for 2001. The 2000-2005 Strategic Plan includes a section on the increased compliance requirements related to the management of wild horses and burros.

OIG 92-I-828 Onshore Geophysical Exploration Program:
The OIG identified two concerns based on the audit: (l) the adequacy of fees charged by the BLM for geophysical exploration and (2) the adequacy of public land rehabilitation after geophysical exploration is completed. Status: The cost recovery requirements have been included in the draft mineral cost recovery rule which was scheduled to be published as a proposed regulation in June 2000. BLM decided to issue a separate rule addressing actual cost which is now being prepared.

OIG 95-I-379 Follow up of Recommendations Regarding User Charges for Mineral-Related Document Processing:

The OIG evaluated whether the BLM satisfactorily implemented the corrective actions recommended in the 1988 report entitled, "User Charges for Mineral-Related Document Processing." The OIG determined the need for further actions. Status: The Minerals Management Cost Recovery Subteam prepared a fee recommendation for priority items having a significant impact on the amount of cost recovery before the Solicitor's Opinion (M-36987) dated December 5, 1996. OMB has approved the proposed rule, and it is waiting for the Assistant Secretary's approval to be published.

OIG 95-I-747 Right-of -Way (ROW) Grants:

OIG was reviewing BLM's efficiency and effectiveness in processing applications, monitoring activities, and collecting applicable fees and rents for right-of-way grants and determined that there were inconsistencies in the implementation of the program. Status: The BLM and Forest Service have been delayed in completing the study on implementation of the ROW program. BLM did establish a new cost recovery schedule and published proposed regulations in June 1999.

OIG 96-I-1265 Occupancy Trespass Resolution

OIG sought to determine if BLM had (1) identified and prioritized the areas most susceptible to trespass; (2) implemented programs to follow up on identified trespass; and (3) developed cost-effective methods, i.e. photogrammentry or remote sensing, to improve the identification of trespass cases. Status: BLM has reported on this in its Semi-Annual Report in 1999 and this audit was closed by the Department in September 2000.

OIG-96-I-1267 Inspection and Enforcement Program and Selected Activities:

OIG conducted the audit to determine whether BLM's Inspection and Enforcement Program: (1) was in compliance with inspection provisions of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act; and (2) ensure that the inactive wells were properly classified and plugged and that bonding was sufficient to protect the Government in case a lease operator defaulted. OIG recommended the development of regulations to ensure compliance. Status: The BLM proposed an oil and gas rule that was published in the Federal Register in December 1998. More recently, BLM developed a proposed final rule in which the recommended requirements have been eliminated and replaced with an alternative approach. The final rule is expected to be published by the end of 2000.

OIG 99-I-395 Administration of Revenues Due from Helium Produced on Federal Leases:

OIG conducted the audit to determine if BLM effectively identified, collected, and accounted for helium fee sales revenues due from Federal leases. Status: The study was completed in July 2000. An Instruction Memorandum and Information Bulletin were distributed in June 2000 establishing a policy for the Federal Helium Program and initiating steps to provide regulatory guidance.

OIG 99-I-808 Cultural Resources Management:

OIG conducted the audit to determine whether BLM and all other Interior Bureaus' museum collections are managed adequately. Status: The BLM's Preservation Board established a committee to develop a surveying plan in response to this audit. The Museum Collections Management Plan was revised and issued in November 1999. BLM contacted Bureau Museum Partnership Program repositories to determine the feasibility of initiating repository agreements.

OIG 99-I-917 Special Drug Interdiction Funds:
The OIG conducted the audit to determine whether the BLM properly managed the special funds allocated for reducing methamphetamine production activity in the California Desert District. Status: In October 1999, the Washington Office sent a memorandum with a detailed compliance guide to the California State Director.

GAO/RED-99-64 Ecosystem Planning, Northwest Forest and Interior Columbia Basin Plans Demonstrate Improvements in Land Use Planning:
GAO was concerned about the potential costs, time, and effectiveness of broad-scoped, ecosystem-based analyses and studies, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Resources, and the House Committee on Agriculture asked us to examine the Northwest Forest and Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project. Status: In March 2000, a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement was completed and distributed. A 90-day public comment period concluded on July 6, 2000. Performance standards for managers will be established by the BLM State Directors charged with oversight of the BLM administrative units within the Columbia River Basin. The Record of Decision will amend 62 BLM and Forest Service land use plans.

GAO/AIMD 99-135 Land Management Systems --
Major Software Development Does Not Meet BLM's Business Needs:
This review was conducted to determine if BLM has adequately assessed the usability of the Automated Land Management Record System Initial Operating Capability (ALMRS IOC) and alternatives to meets its business needs; strengthened its investment management processes and practices; obtained an independent assessment of its systems acquisition capabilities and strengthened its systems acquisition processes; and made or is making sizable investments prior to strengthening its investment management and systems acquisition processes. Status: The BLM has completed three preliminary analyses of the ALMRS IOC. The IRM Directorate has conducted two functional analyses of its internal organizations and as a result has instituted a Business Investment Group.

OIG 00-I-300 Supporting Documentation for Operators
Participating in the Stripper Oil Well Property Royalty Rate Reduction:
This review was conducted to determine whether BLM provided effective oversight of well classification and production rates used in determining eligibility for the Program. Status: Target date not met. New target date to be set.

OIG 00-I-377 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Activities:
This audit will determine whether BLM complied with the requirements of Native American Graves Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) (25 USC Sec. 3001-30013), enacted in 1990 and related Code of Federal Regulations and DOI policies. Status: The final NAGPRA work plan has been developed for the Utah State Office. Efforts to implement the plan are underway.

OIG 00-I-448 Audit Report on BLM Financial Statements - '99:
This independent audit is to determine if the existing laws and procedures are being followed. Status: The audit is still pending.

GAO/AIMD-00-67 Land Management Systems:
Status of BLM's Actions to Improve Information Technology Management: To review the BLM's (1) actions to evaluate the Automated Land and Mineral Record System (ALMRS) Initial Operating Capability software and acquire a new land and resource management

system. Status: The BLM is developing an initial Bureau Architecture (BA) which is an enterprise architecture from the viewpoints of business processes, business information and data, computer applications, and IT support infrastructure. Deployment of Tivoli Enterprise Management Systems (EMS) continues. We are continuing our field testing to determine the best approach to implement this system effectively and efficiently. The pilot testing of the Tivoli EMS continues. Full deployment of the system will be completed by March 2001.

GAO/RCED-00-73 BLM and the Forest Service:

Land Exchanges Need to Reflect Appropriate Values and Serve the Public Interest: GAO conducted an audit to determine BLM'S use of the land exchanges since 1989; the extent to which BLM ensured that the land exchanges meet exchange requirements; and to determine the effect of BLM's recent efforts to improve the management of its exchange programs. Status: The BLM has revised its land exchange review and approval requirements. All land exchanges are now reviewed and approved by the BLM National Land Exchange Team or the State Director.

Appendix H
BLM Internal Working Groups

Executive Leadership Team (ELT)

The ELT consists of the Director, Deputy Director, Assistant Directors, BLM State Directors, Director of National Wildland Fire Policy and Aviation, and Director of the National Landscape Conservation System Office. The ELT meets several times each year to focus on Bureauwide management issues and provides a forum for discussion and resolution of major policy issues. The ELT develops Bureauwide objectives, personnel policy, program and budget priorities, and monitors implementation progress to ensure that BLM's goals and objectives are met.

Field Committee (FC)

The Field Committee is made up of field and headquarters senior leaders who serve as a means to facilitate tactical, programmatic implementation of the BLM Strategic Plan. The Field Committee is a forum for sharing information and practices that will result in improvement and consistency across the Bureau. The Field Committee has the expertise and means to scope and problem-solve national issues, develop recommendations, implement decisions, and serve as a communication link between the Bureau's executive leadership and field operation.

Information Technology Investment Board (ITIB)

The ITIB is the BLM's governing board for executive input, recommendations, and decisions on Bureauwide Information Technology (IT) investments and provides support to the Director, Deputy Director, and Assistant Directors for information resources management. The ITIB serves as the capital planning board for selecting, controlling, managing, and evaluating information systems (software) and technology (hardware) investments.

National Personnel Management Committee (NPMC)

The National Personnel Management Committee (NPMC) reviews and act on all requests involving 1) recruiting and selecting permanent positions with full performance levels of GS-14 and GS-15, 2) recruiting and selecting permanent supervisory positions with a full performance level of GS-13 and greater, and 3) positions with a full performance level of GS-13 in the Headquarters Office, including the Centers and National Office of Fire and Aviation. The NPMC acts on Bureau participation in training and career development programs for grades GS-13 through GS-15. The membership of the NPMC includes the Deputy Director (Chair), Assistant Director for Human Resources Management as permanent members, and four rotating members who serve a minimum of one year. Rotating members include an Assistant Director, two State Directors or equivalent, and one Associate State Director.

Budget Strategy Team

The Budget Strategy Team consists of the Deputy Director, Assistant Directors, Budget Officer, and Headquarters and Field representatives. The team assesses the budget appropriation and recommends budget allocations for centrally funded and program initiatives.

Workforce Planning Team

The Workforce Planning Team consists of a State Director (Chair), Program Manager, Field Manager, Human Resources Specialist, Budget Analyst, and Communiciation representative. The team provides direction and guidance for developing strategies, policies, and implementing guidelines for workforce planning.